

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: WHAT THE SUBJECTION OF THE WIFE IS NOT AND WHAT THE LOVE OF THE HUSBAND IS

Houses of Light Church • July 16 y 17, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 3:1, 5-6

"Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives... 5 Porque así también se adornaban en tiempos antiguos aquellas santas mujeres que esperaban en Dios y estaban sujetas a su propio marido. 6 or this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening."

I. WHAT SUBMISSION IS NOT

- A. In Scripture and particularly in this letter there is a mandate for wives to submit to their husbands but according to this same text we are going to see six things that submission is **not**:
- 1. It is not agreeing with your husband on all important matters (3:1).** We know because she disagrees with his disbelief. There is a conflict in the family: she has become a Christian and he has not; and there is no more important thing in the whole world than he whether he believes in Jesus or not. She has made the decision to follow her Lord Jesus Christ, perhaps against the will of her husband.
 - 2. It's not leaving your brain at the altar the day you get married (3:1).** This woman is thinking what Peter is saying about how to win her husband. She has specific instructions to consider regarding waiting on God, regarding being fearless, regarding Sarah and the holy women, regarding purity and respect. **All of these things require her to think so that she knows how to apply them in her marriage.**
 - 3. It is not to stop doing what God tells you so that your husband changes (3:1):** Clearly the goal of this instruction is for her husband to be won to Christ without primarily using her words; then she focuses on God causing a change in his wife and not only in the little things but in the most important aspect of all; **she wants him to be a believer and Peter is telling her how to do it as a submitting wife with the right attitude.**
 - 4. It is not putting the will of your husband before the will of Christ (3:1):** Clearly it is Christ who is dictating to her how to act in this whole situation, **not the husband**; and if her husband tells him to join her in sinning; she is going to have to tell him: *'I must obey God before men; I love you and I want to follow you as my leader but please don't ask me that because I won't be able to follow you in that.'*
 - 5. It's not getting all your worth from your husband (3:5):** Sometimes it has been misunderstood that the husband takes the head (**Eph. 5:23**) thinking he is the one who receives from God and transmits it to her but clearly in

this text we see that this is not the case; she waits on God (1 Pet. 3:5); God is the direct source of her strength to fear nothing so that she can live in a way that wins her husband to Christ.

6. **It's not acting with fear (3:6):** Subjection is never fear; she has a meekness that depends on God and a fearless courage and the husband can see these qualities that seem inexplicable to him and that is why he asks her, in whom do you have your hope to live with such confidence? (1 Pet. 3:15).

B. Based on New Testament doctrine we can say that **submission is a wife's divine call to courageously and joyfully honor and affirm her husband's leadership and help him carry it out according to her gifts.** This is carried out in an honorable manner without losing their dignity or their identity.

C. Peter tells the wife that she is married to the unbeliever which tells us all, you are: *'...a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.'* (1 Pet. 2:9) Proclaiming how excellent and glorious God is leads her and all of us to exemplary conduct as Peter said before:

1. Pet. 2:12 *"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles [included the unbelieving husband] honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds [that is, respectful and pure behavior] and glorify God [in which she has placed her hope] on the day of visitation."*

D. The purpose of this Holy Spirit-inspired text is to **magnify the supreme value of God through Jesus Christ, as more precious and more fulfilling than her husband, and to show that putting her hope in God results in a life that better honors her husband. To the point that she can win him better than if he were the idol she would like to be in her life.**

E. An unbelieving husband may want his wife to make him the center but he is not supreme; God is and Peter is instructing the wives how to live so **that this husband is honored in the best way and won for the Lord by not giving him a place of prominence that belongs only to God.**

II. HOW HUSBANDS SHOULD LOVE THEIR WIVES

1 Pet. 3:7 *"Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."*

A. Pedro continues with the chain of exhortations regarding subjection to the different institutions and after the wives, he addresses the husbands. Just as we saw with wives, the instructions given to husbands are instructions for all Christians:

1 Pet. 2:17 *"Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor."*

- B. "***showing honor to the woman***" Giving honor is a commandment for all in our relationships and in this text it has a particular application in the way husbands should treat their wives; Peter has already told us all:

1 Pet. 2:11 "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."

- C. Spouses too are strangers and pilgrims, which means that while we live in this world we are influenced by our expectations of the Lord and His kingdom. **Not with the way the world sees marriage but with the way God sees marriage.**

- D. So when he says "***Likewise***" he is saying that together with the other instances in which we have to function (government, work, family) and for the Lord's sake as men we submit to the institution of marriage in our role as husbands who God assigned us.

- E. "***live with your wives in an understanding way***" What do we need to know or understand in order to live properly with our wives? **We must know what it means to "showing honor" also what is the nature of women, that they are a "weaker vessel", what it means that they are "heirs with you of the grace of life"; what does prayer have to do with all this and how can it be hindered. So in order to honor them, we have to know them.** We have to study our wives because each one is different. Before coming to Christ we were ignorant in many aspects but now we have knowledge and we apply it to all areas of our life including our marriage. Knowing God affects your passions and how you live in honor with your wife.

1 Pet. 1:14 "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance."

1 Thes. 4:4-5 "that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, s not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God."

III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GIVE HONOR TO WOMEN?

- A. Giving proper honor to women implies knowing that they are "a weaker vessel" and that they are "***heirs with you of the grace of life***". In other words, on the one hand they are fragile but on the other they are key to the inheritance we receive. Both men and women are vessels in which God deposits His glory.

2 Cor. 4:7 "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."

- B. Obviously, the fact that they are fragile does not mean that they are inferior, but that God gave us men greater physical strength to protect them. Only 3% of those who work in construction are women; only 13% of women are police officers; only 15% of women are in the military and this has nothing to do with discrimination but with a genetic advantage that God gave us men in general.

So when we honor our wives we consider the areas where they are most fragile and then we protect, we provide, we lead and we take the lead.

Eph. 5:23-29 *"For the husband is the head of the wife [leadership-initiative] even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior...²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her [he serves her and of himself],²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word...²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it [provision and protection], just as Christ does the church"*

- C. The manhood of the man moves him to adequately consider the reality that Pedro is expressing here that she is a more fragile vessel responding manly with consideration and honor.

IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which aspect of what submission is not struck you the most and why?
2. Why should a wife who honors God more than her husband honor him better to the point of winning him to Christ?
3. How can we best honor our spouse or those around us?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Vacation Bible School (VBS) starts this Monday for children ages 4-12.**
Donation \$60. Space is limited, please register in the children's office or at www.housesoflight.org
2. **The prophecy rooms will be open this Wednesday, July 20 at 7:00 p.m.** please reserve your place at www.nhop.la
3. **Our AWAKEN program for youth ages 13-18 starts July 27-29.** Please register your children at the front desk or at www.housesoflight.org
4. **The Passion for Jesus Conference and Leadership Summit will take place September 8-10.** Please register as soon as possible at the entrance table or at www.nhop.la