



- 3) Christ left us an example of how to patiently submit to those who treat us unfairly. From the following verses, underline the six steps we are to follow. (The steps are listed for you in Lesson Four.)

*Who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. (1 Peter 2:22-24 NASU)*

- 4) The only way we can respond to others in love is to realize that at one time we were straying like sheep (verse 25) just like those who mistreat us. But we have returned to a place of safety. How is Christ described in verse 25? *(If someone has been unfair with you recently, take a moment and pray that they would return to the safety of Christ's love.)*

Note: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. (Psalm 103:8 NIV)
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**Read 1 Peter 3:1-6**

- 1) God is a God of order. Every institution runs better when there is clear leadership whether it is a government, a business, or a family. We are to submit to our husbands in the same way as we would to those who lead in government or those who lead in business. Read 1 Corinthians 11:3. Who is the head of Christ? Does it comfort you to know that Christ understood how to submit even when it was very hard?
- 2) Read Ephesians 5:22-33. Symbolically, what does Paul compare marriage to? From this passage, pull out phrases that describe what Christ does for the church.

3) Winning difficult or unbelieving husband “without a word” (verse 1) does not mean that we just shut down and never say anything while he continues in sin. Consider the following verses on ministering to sinners. What does each one encourage us to do?

a) Rom 15:14

b) James 5:19-20

c) Luke 17:3-4

d) 2 Tim 4:2

Note: 1 Peter 3:2 reads in the NKJV as “when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.” The word “chaste” means “pure or innocent.” The phrase “accompanied by fear” means “respectful behavior.”

4) We are to be a living witness to our husbands but with respect and a gentle and quiet spirit. Read Proverbs 21:9, Proverbs 21:19, and Proverbs 27:3. What is our husband’s attitude likely to be when we are not gentle and quite?

Note: Contentious means that you are always ready to argue. You are quarrelsome. You strive in opposition and competition. Vexing means to “give trouble to in a petty or nagging way; disturb, annoy, irritate; to afflict or plague; to keep bringing up, going over, or returning to a matter that is difficult to solve.”

5) Are you in competition for the authority that God has given to your husband? If so, write a prayer of surrender. Ask God to develop a gentle and quiet spirit within you. Perhaps meditate on Psalms 101:1-2.

- 6) A woman can be beautiful on the outside but competitive, self-absorbed, and discontent on the inside. Our society values beauty, health, and wealth. Many women buy into the lies that they will not be accepted unless they are thin and dressed to get attention. Women who buy into these lies are in constant fear about their image and their marriages usually suffer. *\*Personal questions – Do you constantly compare yourself to other women? Is there fear, guilt, or shame attached to food, exercise, or the way your clothes fit? Can you praise God for your body just the way it is?*

Note: The goal of the Christian life is not how many people love you, but how many people you love. We can reach out and love others regardless of how we look! ☺

- 7) 1 Peter 3:5 says that the holy women in the former times adorned themselves with a gentle and quiet spirit and were submissive to their husbands. Who did they put their hope or trust in? From your own experience, why is it important to keep your hope and trust fixed on God and not on your husband?

Note: Peter used Sarah, Abraham's wife, as an example in verse 6. We read about Sarah in the book of Genesis. She was not a perfect woman or wife. When you study her life you see that God caused her faith to grow along with Abraham's. Yet, when you look at her life as a whole, you see that she was beautiful in appearance but more importantly, she was a respectful and loving companion to Abraham.

- 8) The end of verse 6 says that we are Sarah's daughters if we do right without being frightened by any fear (NASU). The word for fear here is terror. The NLT version reads, "*You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do.*" If you read the story of Abigail (1 Samuel 25) last week, you saw that even though she didn't follow her husband's commands to not give food to David, she followed God and saved her household. She was not afraid of what her husband would do. For those of you who are married to a rebellious man, I encourage you, out of love for your husband, to seek help so that he is held accountable. Read Proverbs 3:25-26. Where does our confidence come from?

- a) Connect this phrase about not being fearful to next week's lesson. Read 1 Peter 3:13-15. We are encouraged not to fear their intimidation (NASU). What is the defense or answer we should always be ready to give?

**Read 1 Peter 3:7**

- 1) Husbands are to treat their wives in the same way, which is with understanding and respect. Look again at Ephesians 5:22-33. From Ephesians 5:28-29, how does Paul illustrate that husbands are to love their wives?
  
- 2) What do you think it means that wives are the weaker vessel?
  
- 3) A husband's prayers can be hindered if he does not honor his wife. Compare this thought to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:23-24. If you and your husband had a fight on the way to church on a Sunday morning, it's very hard to stand there and worship or pray. Our prayers are hindered because there is anger and bitterness in our hearts. What does the Matthew passage tell us to do?

**Read 1 Peter 3:8-12**

- 1) This section sums up the discussion on specific aspects of submission while the theme of suffering continues. List the ways that we are to treat others from verses 8 and 9.
  - a) KEEP –
  - b) TURN –
  - c) SEEK –
  
- 2) Peter quotes Psalms 34:12-13 in verses 10-12. The Psalmist used three verbs we must put into action if we want to love life and see good days. Finish the thoughts from verses 10-11.
  
- 3) What is the promised blessing and warning from verse 12?

