

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

How to Be Holy in Your Marriage

I Peter 3:1-7

¹ Remember in First Peter, chapter 1, verses 15-16 it said, ² **But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”** God wants you to be holy like Him in everything you do. This is especially true in your most important relationship in this life. The scripture today will show you how to be holy in your marriage. ³

Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. ¹ ⁴

¹ v1-4.

For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. ²

Verse 7 tells us how to be holy as a husband. ⁵

I. How to Be Holy as a Husband - v7

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. ⁶

² v5-7.

So what should your attitudes be towards your wife? ⁷ God wants you to be considerate ³. The word here is to have knowledge of her; to be understanding. You need to learn to understand women in general; female characteristics as they differ from men. You need to, then, know your wife specifically through communication and observation. ⁸

But God wants you to live with your wife not only in a physical way, but also emotionally! Certainly physically. God's word tells us five times, ⁹ **For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. ⁴ But you need to live with her emotionally as well. You know, you can live physically with your wife but be out to lunch emotionally. A happy marriage takes both! ¹⁰**

³ γνῶσις.

⁴ Ephesians 5:31.

God also wants you to treat her with respect. ⁵ This means, literally, to "assign value". It implies to honor, esteem and cherish. Your lady is a fellow heir to the kingdom of God and is as valuable as you are in God's sight. If you keep in mind how valuable she is to both you and the Lord, the minor irritations you have with one another won't get to you as much. ¹¹

Ephesians, chapter 5, tells you to love your wives! The word there for love ⁶ means to give of yourself to satisfy her needs. But to what degree? **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.** ⁷ ¹² **And, again,** ¹³ **In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and**

⁵ ἀπονέμοντες τιμὴν.

⁶ ἀγαπάω.

cares for it, just as Christ does the church.⁸ Be sure to feed and care for her!¹⁴

So, what are the results? Verse 7 emphatically states, an unhindered prayer life! How might that be possible?¹⁵ You know it is possible to grieve the Holy Spirit.⁹¹⁶ You know there's power in prayer when two Christians agree.¹⁰¹⁷ You also are aware, of course, that if you are not right with a fellow Christian, you're supposed to make things right even before you worship God!¹¹ So if you really want the ear of God, it's important that you treat that lady of yours properly!

⁷ Ephesians 5:25.

⁸ Ephesians 5:28-29.

⁹ Ephesians 4:30 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

¹⁰ Matthew 18:19 - I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

¹¹ Matthew 5:23-24 - Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

**Now that we understand how to be holy as a husband.
Let's turn to the wife. ¹⁸**

II. How to Be Holy as a Wife - v1-6

How are you to be holy as a wife? ¹⁹ What is your attitude to be towards your husband? Let's return to verses 1 through 6. ²⁰

The first attitude is found in verse 1; ¹² submissiveness. ¹³ That means to, literally, arrange yourself under, to rank yourself under, therefore, to obey.

**Remember the galley scene of the movie "Ben Hur"?
Charlton Heston is chained to his bench rowing to the cadence of the drummer. That's the idea. ²¹ It's the same word for submission to the government ¹⁴, a**

¹² v1 - Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives . . .

¹³ ὑποτάσσω.

¹⁴ I Peter 2:13 - Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority. . .

slave's relationship to his master ¹⁵ and, here, your submission to your husband. This command seems rather harsh until we understand the balance in this marriage relationship God intends for you to have. ²²

In Ephesians, chapter 5, verse 21, it reads, **Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.** Submission goes both ways! ²³ In verse 22, submission is **to the Lord.** When you submit to him appropriately, you are submitting to the Lord. ²⁴

God has chosen the husband to be the head of your household. Ephesians, chapter 5, verse 23, **For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.** Again, in First Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 3, **Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.** Order in the family requires someone to have the authority and responsibility

¹⁵ | Peter 2:18 - Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect. . .

before God for the family. That's your husband's role!

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The next attitude for wives is purity. ¹⁶ This is behavior that is free from ceremonial defilement. It is clean, sacred, holy. This is the word used for animals that fit the criteria for being a sacrificial offering. It had to be the right kind of animal, the right gender, the right age, free of any disease and really, really physically clean. A Jewish woman would be baptized every month after her menstrual period to be ceremonially clean. Converts to the Jewish religion would be baptized to be made ceremonially clean. Clean behavior from a wife means an awfully lot to her husband and to God! ²⁶

Verse 2 continues with reverence. Psychiatrists and marriage counseling professionals agree that the biggest emotional need of husbands is to be respected by their wives. ²⁷

¹⁶ ἀγνήν ἀναστροφὴν ὑμῶν.

Verses 3 and 4 talk about true beauty. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 28

Our western culture emphasizes that physical beauty is all that counts. It's been said that when a woman walks out of her home she enters a beauty contest. Notice the television commercials and the emphasis on sex in modern movies and TV.

Some churches over react to this trend by dictating very strict appearance for "godly" women. They must wear ultra conservative clothes, wear their hair a certain way and not wear any jewelry or makeup. Many of them, in the name of being a godly woman, look like death warmed over! 29

Where is the balance? These verses tell us. God's Principle for Feminine Beauty is simply this; it's a matter of focus! Emphasize the character and attitudes of a quiet and gentle spirit more than physical appearance. ³⁰

What are the results? Power. Power with people and power with the Lord! ³¹

The most important result, in verse 1, is the influence of this behavior resulting in your unbelieving husband coming to know the Lord. ³²

You start becoming like Lord Jesus. Notice what the Lord said about your humbleness, **Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who**

serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ¹⁷ ₃₃

A genuinely humble, submissive, quiet and gentle spirit has power with people. The Apostle Paul noted, Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ¹⁸ ₃₄

Verse 4, here, says that exhibiting these qualities gives you great worth in God's sight. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ₃₅

Do you want to stand out from the world and be holy? Treat your spouse with godly behavior and the world will see the wonderful difference!

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¹⁷ Luke 22:26-27.

¹⁸ I Corinthians 9:19.