

1 Peter 3:1-6

¹Wives, 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, ²when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴Instead, 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. ⁵For 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, ⁶like 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.

Three general categories that describe many marriages:

1) Non-Christian Feminism

No distinction between the roles of husband and wife. They live parallel lives, legally married but functionally single.

2) Christian Egalitarianism

No distinction between the roles of husband and wife. They also live parallel lives, but often share some unifying, ephemeral elements (e.g. kids, hobbies, church).

3) Christian Complementarianism

Husband and wife fulfill distinct and equal roles. They live as one together under God's authority with unified purpose.

Wives are to follow their husband's leadership

Husbands are commanded to love their wives as Jesus loves the Church ([Eph. 5:25](#)); Jesus *died* for the Church. Jesus' example guards against chauvinism and other abuses of the principle of submission.

Ways a husband can handle disagreements with his wife:

1. Pray and discuss with your wife. Be patient. Wait for her to come around.
2. Appeal to a higher authority (pastor/counselor).
3. If the matter is pressing and/or a decision cannot be reached, the husband must decide. His wife should submit to the decision.

Wives are to preach wordless sermons

Those who have unbelieving husbands should not nag or be preachy, but rather love, serve, and respect their husbands, praying that God would use these actions to soften the husband's heart.

Wives are to cultivate true beauty

There is nothing wrong with outward beauty, but it is "fleeting and deceptive" ([Prov.](#)

[31:30](#)). Holiness is true beauty. Godly wives have a quiet and gentle spirit; they are not silent, but prudent (knowing when and where to speak).

Wives should seek to know exemplary women

Peter gives Sarah as an example, and the Bible is clear that she is flawed. She is exemplary for her honesty and repentance, not because she is perfect; she ultimately did submit to God and to her husband.

Wives should fight fear

Fear (what if it doesn't work out? what if I'm unhappy? what if my husband makes a bad decision?) makes life miserable and should be fought against by faith.

Submission Does *Not* Mean:

1. A husband is in ultimate authority.
2. A wife does not have independent thoughts.
3. A wife does not seek to influence her husband.
4. A wife must obey her husband's command to sin.
5. A wife is less intelligent or competent than her husband.

Submission Does Mean:

1. A husband and wife are equal with complementary roles.
2. Wives are to submit like Jesus did in Gethsemane ([Luke 22:42](#)).
3. Husbands are to lovingly lead like Jesus does the Church ([Eph. 5:25](#)).
4. A single woman should only marry a man she can follow.
5. Christian marriage shows the Trinity and the gospel.