

# Lesson 8: In the Home Training

## A Series Thru First Peter

### Marriage

In the early chapters of the Bible we see God create the universe as well as all living things on our planet. God made humanity in his image and provide a divine mandate that humanity exercise dominion over the planet. (Genesis 1:26-28) In Genesis 2, there is a focus on the creation of the first man (Adam) and the first woman (Eve). (Genesis 2:7, 18-25) In the Genesis 2 passage, we see Adam carrying out the dominion mandate by naming various animals, but also as a part of this exercise God showed him how various male and female animals corresponded to one another, but none corresponded to him. The first woman was created from Adam's DNA and while different from him, they corresponded. God designed marriage and brought Adam and Eve together and made them one flesh, but then the Fall happened. For our purposes, it is the results of the Fall that we need to understand. (Genesis 3:16) What we read in this verse is not how things should be, but how they are because of sin.

1. **In the Same Way (3:1-2)**: Just as Peter directed his readers to submission in 1 Peter 2 in the context of submission to human government and within the master / house servant context, so he also directed wives to “be subject to” their own husbands. Peter adds that, in a marriage with a wayward husband (not necessarily an unsaved husband), the wife’s conduct may win over the husband.

— What is the opposite of the wife being subject to her husband? What are some specific examples of how a wife would not be subject to her husband?

— What are some specific examples of what a wife should NOT DO in the name of being subject to her husband?

2. **Genuine Beauty (3:3-4)**: From God’s perspective, the woman that wins the beauty contest has beauty in the heart and a beauty of character. This kind of beauty does not fade away with time. Does this passage teach that wives cannot braid their hair or wear nice clothes and jewelry? (Can you think of a Biblical counterexample to that view?)

3. **The Example of Sarah (3:5-6)**: Peter wrote that many women “back in the day” (in the OT) had the type of beauty and submission he just explained. One example is Sarah, the wife of Abraham, who called him “lord.” Wives in Peter’s time, and ours, because Sarah’s “children” when they follow her godly example. Peter adds the phrase, “and have no fear in doing so.” What might that mean?

4. **Now the Husbands (3:7)**: Peter says the husbands “in the same way” and again looks back to the prior examples of submission. Peter did not tell the husbands to submit to their wives, but his command is intended to parallel submission. His relationship to his wife is paramount and should reflect the original (before the Fall) design intent for marriage. The way in which the husband relates to his wife is to be characterized by (1) understanding and (2) honor. Failing to do so will result in hindered prayers.

— But how does the husband develop the knowledge or understanding? And to what purpose?

5. **Book Suggestions**: (1) *Sacred Marriage: What If God Designed Marriage To Make Us Holy More Than To Make Us Happy?* by Gary Thomas; (2) *Safe Haven Marriage* by Archibald and Sharon Hart; (3) *His Needs, Her Needs* by Willard Harley, Jr.; and (4) *The Five Love Languages: The Secret to Love That Lasts* by Gary Chapman.