

Dear Life Group Leaders - For the next two weeks Peter is focusing on the subject of marriage. This week the main focus is going to be on the role and responsibilities of a godly wife in a marriage. Next week it will be the husband's turn.

You may want to start your time together with a few funny quotes about marriage. I am including a few for you but please use your discretion for appropriateness.

- *The famous philosopher, Socrates once said to his students: "By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher".*
- *"Women marry men hoping they will change. Men marry women hoping they will not".*
- *"My wife and I were happy for twenty years. Then we met".*
- *"Love is one long sweet dream and marriage is the alarm clock"!*
- *"Marriage is an adventure, like going to war".*
- *"Before I got married I had six theories about raising children; now, I have six children and no theories".*
- *"Marriage is like a deck of cards. All you need in the beginning is two hearts and a diamond. After 10 years you need a club and spade".*
- *"Marriage: sometimes soulmates, sometimes cellmates".*
- *"The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret".*
- *"Marriage is a workshop... where the husband works and the wife shops".*
- *"Marriage is give and take. You'd better give it to her or she'll take it anyway".*

## START YOUR TIME TOGETHER

- After this Sunday's sermon some of us may have some new insight, so before we dive into our discussion let's start with the question that we have addressed in prior weeks:
  - Why is it that the concept of "submission" is so hard for us to swallow and why not just for the people outside the church but for us Christians?

## DIGGING DEEPER

### READ 1 PETER 3:1-6

In preparing for these weekly study guides I usually study other material. This week as I was doing that, I came across one study guide on the book of 1 Peter that had nothing written on 1 Peter 3:1-7. They just completely skipped it and went directly to verse 8 of chapter 3. I guess that is one way of dealing with the issue of submission in marriage - JUST SKIP IT ALTOGETHER. And that is probably what some of us or may I dare to say most of us have done or are doing or planning to continue to do.

1. **Thanks be to God for His Word** that addresses every issue we face in life and gives us the tools and the power to deal with them in a godly way (2 Peter 1:3). And that is what Peter does in chapter 3. He starts with these words: "*Wives, in the same way* (other translations "likewise") *submit*".
  - a) In the same way of "whom"? How does this passage relate to the previous? What is the context? (Look back at 1 Peter 2:11-25)
    - Citizens to governmental authorities
    - Slaves to masters
  - b) Why do we have to live this kind of lives? (Look up 2:11).
    - Because this world is not our home. We are foreigners. We are suppose to be different.
  - c) What is the first and foremost reason a wife should strive to willingly submit to her husband's leadership?
    - In order to glorify God and prove unbelievers wrong (2:12)

- Submitting for the Lord's sake first and foremost (2:13)
- Because it is God's will and will end up silencing the ignorant foolish people (2:15)
- Because it is commendable before God (2:19-20)
- Because it is a calling to follow in Christ's footsteps (2:21)

**2. Read Ephesians 5:21-33 and Colossians 3:18-19** in conjunction with our today's passage to answer the following questions:

- a) What does it mean for a wife to "submit" to her husband?
- b) What would be the outcome of a wife's godly submission?

**3. According to 1 Peter 3:1**

- a) How does a woman wins over her husband for Christ?  
(Not by words but by conduct)
- b) Does it mean that if your husband is a Christian verse 1 does not apply to you?
- c) What common misconception is Peter asking wives to set aside?  
(Nagging is not the solution)

4. **Look at 1 Peter 3:3-4** (Paul gives the same exhortations to women in 1 Timothy 2:9-10)

- a) Is Peter (or for that matter Paul) suggesting that truly godly women don't wear makeup, fix their hair, or accessorize?

The answer is of course no. Peter's point is a matter of preoccupation. He is saying that women shouldn't be consumed with care for their external bodies but give proper and adequate time to their inner person.

Now let's get practical:

- b) What kind of care do you do for your outer beauty as a woman?

- Think about your weekly schedule. How many hours of your week are spent preserving or enhancing physical beauty? Think about your body from head to toe and add up approximately how many hours a week you spend cleaning, grooming, toning, clothing, or painting it. If you work out, be honest about whether you do so for fitness or for appearance. \_\_\_\_\_ hours.

- c) What kind of care do you do for your inner beauty as a woman?

- How many hours of your week are spent preserving or enhancing the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit? \_\_\_\_\_ hours.

- d) How does a wife's approach to her outer person relate to her submission to her husband?

- e) How does a wife's approach to her inner person relate to her submission to her husband?

**5. When Peter wants to clarify** the beauty of the inner person he uses words like gentleness, meekness and quietness.

- a) Are you of the mindset that if you speak louder, you will be heard? How is your shouting working for you in your relationship with your husband or your kids or your friends and family?
- b) The word used for meek or gentle is neither just a giving in to things nor is it a passive submission. It is a great spiritual strength. It speaks to our ability to be strong inwardly, and spiritually, facing even undesirable circumstances with a view to the bigger picture God is painting.
- c) Do you consider yourself as being gentle and meek? Be honest.
- d) Have you ever said -- "well I am not a real gentle person", "that word does not fit for me because my personality is bold and strong" or "I have a short fuse and that is just the way God made me" or ... ?

**6. Look at 1 Peter 3:5**

Wives often tell their husbands (It is fair because I don't want my wife to compare me with other men) don't compare me with other women.

- a) How do you respond to Peter because that is how he starts in verse 5?
- b) What does “in this way” of verse 5 pointing to?
  - The submissive, unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit

7. **In 1 Peter 3:6, Peter gives an example** of such kind of a woman from the past that was well known and respected by the Jewish people.

- a) How does Sarah's example and her submissive attitude toward her husband Abraham help you in your endeavour to become more submissive to your husband?
- b) Think about Abraham. He was a man of great faith and a lot of great qualities. But he was also a man with a lot of failures and frailties. In the light of an event recorded in genesis 20 for example, if you were Sarah would it have been easy for you to submit to Abraham's leadership?

8. **Peter finishes verse 6** by the phrase “if you do not give way to fear”. What do you think that means? What is it that frightens you about respecting and submitting to your husband's leadership?

## APPLICATION

1. What is the one take away from this weeks learning. What one thing will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.
  
2. Let's finish with this disclaimer. In the previous week's study, it was noted that though the Bible is very clear in submitting to all authorities, there are occasions that our submission to our Lord's direct commands takes precedence over our submission to human authorities.
  - a) In the light of such truth, can you think of any examples where a wife would not be bound to submit to her husband's authority? List your thoughts below.
  
  - b) How might the recognition that submission to your husband is not required in every situation protect you? How might that recognition be a temptation to sin for you?

*We started with a few funny quotes. Let's end with a few quotes before we go to prayer.*

- *"A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person".*
  
- *There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage".*

- *“Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave”.*
- *“A good marriage would be between a blind wife and a deaf husband”.*

**LET'S SPEND SOME TIME IN PRAYER**