

- I. Christian wives are called to submit to their husbands out of respect for God and His will, willing to suffer for doing the right thing when necessary. (v1-v6)**
- A. The Christian wife is called to line up under the authority of her husband by following the directives and leadership of her husband in all aspects of his leadership over her, up to the point of him asking her to sin (she must refuse to sin when asked to do so).
 - B. She is to do this whether he is obedient or disobedient to the Word of God.
 - C. The key is that if her husband is disobedient to the Word of God, he may be won over by the holy and reverent manner in which she is conducting herself towards him.
 - D. This holy and reverent manner is a by-product of the unfading quality of a gentle and quiet soul, which is extremely valuable in the sight of God.
 - E. The development of the inner beauty of a gentle and quiet soul is to take precedence over the development of outer beauty via with hairstyle, makeup, clothes, and jewelry. (Looks may catch him, but godly character is what will transform him as God wills.)
 - F. Sarah and other holy women of the past demonstrated this submissive attitude and actions towards their husbands (Sarah in particular by calling her husband "lord"), reflecting their hope in God and their lack of fear of others. Women reflect the character of Sarah and other holy women of the past when they walk in submissive attitude and actions toward their husbands, demonstrating their hope in God and their lack of fear of others accordingly.
- II. Christian husbands are to live with their wives in an understanding way out of respect for God and His will, willing to suffer for doing the right thing when necessary. (v7)**
- A. Husbands need to dwell with their wives according to knowledge, being considerate of who their wives are, who their wives are not, and who their wives need to become in connection with God's will for their wives according to Scripture, no matter the attitude or action of their wives.

- B. Husbands need to treat their wives as precious, nourishing and cherishing them as prescribed by God's will, no matter the attitude or action of their wives.
- C. Husbands need to understand and embrace the reality that their wives share in the same benefits of past, present and future grace as they do.
- D. Husbands need to be considerate of the fact that in general, their wives do not have the same physical build as a man which means, in general, women do not have the same physical strength as a man, hence being weaker physically in relation to being built like a man.
- E. A wife is not to be treated like a man in relation to physical strength, which is disrespectful to who she is, but is to be treated according to her God-given design as a woman, no matter her attitude or action.
- F. Husbands who are not treating their wives in the appropriate manner can anticipate God disregarding their prayers.

Key Concepts to Consider:

1. Because of a commitment to and respect for God and His will, one is to do what is right in all roles and responsibilities of life, embracing the suffering that follows.
2. Therefore, a wife is to do what she is commanded in relation to her husband out of commitment to and respect for God and His will, and not based on the attitude or actions of her husband – even if it involves suffering for doing the right thing.
3. Likewise, a husband is to do what he is commanded in relation to his wife out of commitment to and respect for God and His will, and not based on the attitude or actions of his wife – even if it involves suffering for doing the right thing.