

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, [2]when they see your respectful and pure conduct. [3]Do not let your adorning be external--the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear-- [4]but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. [5]For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, [6]as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. [7]Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (ESV)

Wives

- **Be subject to your own husbands** – 1 Peter 2:18-21, Ephesians 5:22-24
- **Even if some do not obey the word** – 1 Peter 2:7-8, Luke 12:51-53
- **So that they may be won without a word** – 1 Peter 2:12,15,18, 1 Corinthians 7:13-16, 9:19, Titus 2:3-5
- **Do not let your adorning be external** – 1 Timothy 2:8-15, 1 Peter 1:3-4, 1 Peter 1:22-23
- **As Sarah obeyed Abraham** – Genesis 18:6-15, Hebrews 11:11, Genesis 12:10-20, Genesis 16:2-6, Isaiah 51:2, Romans 2:29

“In Greco-Roman society it was expected that the wife would have no friends of her own and would worship the gods of her husband...It is significant that Peter does not directly address any of these particulars...He instructs her simply to submit to her own husband’s wishes; depending on individual proclivities, the result may or may not have been the same as the expectations of society at large. It is an important point that Peter leaves the specifics of this matter strictly between the husband and wife. The Christian wife is to submit not to the expectations of any and all men in general but to her own husband. Peter opens the door for social transformation by leaving it to husband and wife to work out the specific way her submission is to be expressed.” – Karen Jobes

Husbands

- **Live with your wives in an understanding way** – Ephesians 5:25-33
- **Showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel** – Colossians 3:18-19, 1 Peter 1:3-5, Galatians 3:27-29

“This refers to an experiential knowledge, not mere information. Who is this woman you’ve married? What goes on inside her mind and heart? What are her fears? her dreams? To love your wife with this kind of understanding involves patience, perseverance, and humility...Part of understanding your wife is knowing her particular temptations, weaknesses, and besetting sins...When you genuinely understand the thoughts behind your wife’s words and actions, you can then graciously lead her to evaluate them biblically. This scriptural approach addresses the real need and can lead her to a place of comfort, counsel or perhaps conviction over her sin...The second expression Peter mentions is honor. Some men think they’re honoring their wives merely by what they don’t do, such as not being harsh or reacting in anger or “doing what other men do.” But honor isn’t passive – it’s active. We honor our wives by demonstrating our appreciation, courtesy, and respect: affirming the indications of God’s active grace in their lives; complimenting them in public; commending their gifts, character, and accomplishments; declaring our appreciation for all they do. Honor not expressed is not honor. Gratitude not expressed is not gratitude. When Scripture calls the woman “the weaker vessel” the phrase itself implies honor...The description is meant to produce honor and respect...Peter goes on to describe a cause-and-effect relationship: if we dishonor our wives, our prayers will be hindered...If you find particular prayer request going unanswered, perhaps you are not honoring your wife and living with her in an understanding way. God won’t let you mistreat his daughter without consequences. They may not be immediate, but they are inevitable.” – Gary & Betsy Ricucci in *Love that Lasts*