

BLESSED HOPE



BIBLE CHURCH

**Learning of Christ, Loving in Christ, Leaning on Christ, Living for Christ, Leading to Christ
Based on the Word of God**

1 PETER

LIVING FOR THE
LORD IN BAD TIMES



WEDLOCK OR DEADLOCK

1PETER 3:1-7



- **THE CONTEXT:** The basic theme of 1 Peter is the proper response of a believer in Christ in times of suffering and difficulties.
- **THE PARADOX:** All of us will face various kinds of difficulties and problems in life, however, the problem is NOT the difficulties we face BUT how we respond to difficult situations.
- **THE PRINCIPLE:** The believer in Christ has the anticipation of an eternal inheritance that gives strength, encouragement and hope even in the most difficult times. In light of this, God wants the believer **to be holy** in all his conduct.

- **THE PRACTICALITY:** To be holy in all conduct **includes:**
 - Conducting yourself throughout the time of your stay here in fear (i.e., the fear of the Lord)
 - Loving one another fervently with a pure heart
 - Desiring the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.
 - Offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, due to the fact that we are living stones, being built up by the Living Stone as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.
 - Abstaining from fleshly lusts with conduct that is honorable among the Gentiles (unsaved).
 - Living as law-abiding citizens in the nation, regardless of that nation's political climate.
 - Respecting the authority of those over you in the workplace.
 - Being responsible, respectful, godly and faithful spouses

- **THE PERSPECTIVE:** A very important and powerful testimony to our ungodly society is the believer's responsibility and faithfulness in his/her marriage.
 - A believer's walk, devotion, and seriousness about Christ is manifested in their marriage relationship (e.g., what you are in Christ, and what you anticipate in Christ, is manifested in your marriage).
 - The fact that a man and a woman are both saved is no guarantee that their marriage will succeed (e.g., Christ has to be the center of that marriage, and the Holy Spirit must be leading and guiding and obeyed in order for the marriage to be pleasing to God).

- We have more books about marriage today than ever before, and we have more marriage counselors, psychiatrists and ministers talking about marriage today than ever before, and yet we have more marital problems and divorces than every before.
- Many are looking for some **formula** to get, maintain, or restore marital bliss, but I believe that when a Christian realizes what happened to him/her when he/she got saved and what he/she has to look forward to in eternity with Christ that will motivate him/her to be a faithful spouse, no matter how difficult the situations of life may be.

- **Lesson:** Because of what happened to us (we were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ and born again of incorruptible seed), and because of what we are (we are living stones being built up as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood), **all believers are to be respectful and faithful spouses in their marriages, no matter how difficult life may be at any given time.**
- From 1Peter 3:1-7 we will look at biblical principles to the wife and the husband that will encourage them to be faithful and respectful spouses in their marriage regardless of the situations of life.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE CHRISTIAN WIFE 1Peter 3:1-6



- **THE BIBLICAL COMMAND:** "In the same manner (e.g., as slaves are to be submissive to their masters, and as all believers are to be submissive to every ordinance of man) ye wives be in subjection to your own husbands."
- **Point:** Christian wives are to recognize the **leadership** of their husband as the head of the home (e.g., some women are smarter, stronger, more vibrant, and make more money than their husbands, but they are to respect the **leadership** of their husbands).



- This command to the Christian wife **DOES NOT** mean that she is **inferior** to her husband.
 - Both man and woman are made by the same Creator in His **image** according to His **likeness**.
 - Both man and woman were given **dominion** over the creation by God.
 - Both the man and the woman get **saved** the same way (e.g., by faith in Christ) and become heirs together in Christ

- The submission of the Christian wife to her husband's authority **DOES NOT** mean that she is a **slave** or the husband's personal property.
 - Men, throughout history have treated their women as personal property—and have even gone to war over them.
 - However, God did not make Adam a slave but a helper comparable to him)!!!





- Submission of the Christian wife to her husband's leadership **DOES NOT** mean that the wife has to obey unfair, unethical, immoral, and illegal demands on the part of her husband.
 - A Christian wife can refuse an immoral demand from her husband and still show respect for his leadership in the home.
 - This is NOT rebellion, this is taking a stand for the Lord.

- The Christian woman is commanded by God to **willfully** submit to the leadership of her husband.
 - She is NOT to be forced to submit with threats, beatings, abuse, or any kind of mistreatment.
 - Her submission to her husband is an act of submission to Christ Himself!





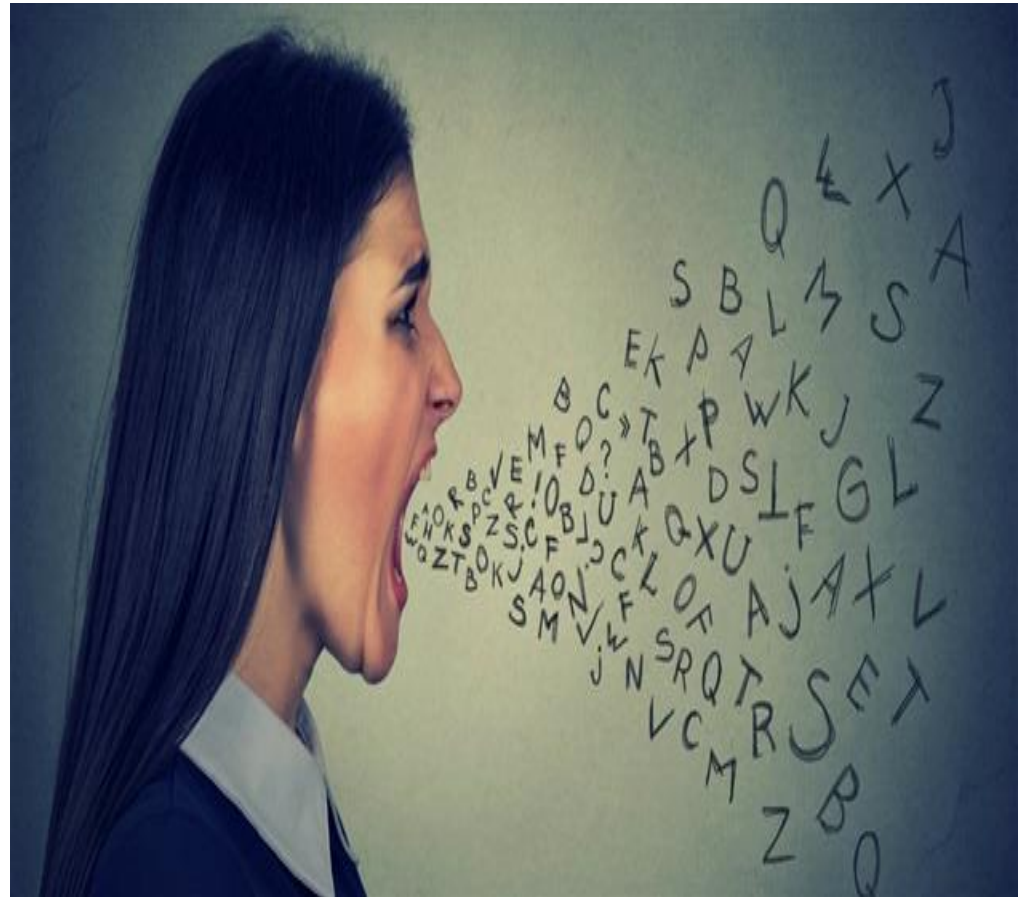
- The submissiveness of the Christian wife is an **opportunity** to lead her husband to Christ.
 - God "uses" the submission of a wife to her husband as a powerful, spiritual influence in the home and in society.
 - Many men, even hard core men, have come to Christ through the godly testimony of their wives.
 - Most men do not respond to a hostile, nagging, bossy, complaining, whining woman- they fight them, they resist them, they run from them; but they do respond to a woman with a loving, submissive, gentle and quiet spirit.

- The submissiveness of the Christian wife is an **opportunity** to manifest inner, spiritual, and godly beauty that commands respect.
 - **The Biblical Exhortation:** "Do not let your adornment be merely outward,... rather let it be the hidden person of the heart"
 - **Note carefully:** The apostle Peter is not saying that Christian women cannot fix their hair, wear jewelry, or wear nice clothes (e.g., Christian women should not neglect themselves nor be out of date in their apparel; however, they should not look like an immoral woman of the street).
 - The Christian wife is to carry herself in a manner that demands respect (e.g., like a godly lady with a gentle and quiet spirit).
 - **Note carefully:** This is not a weak “wimpy” homely woman; this is a bold, classy, strong, confident woman that demands respect and honor (e.g., this is what the holy women in former times were like).

**A well dressed,
bold, confident,
and strong woman
commands respect
and honor.**



God is pleased with women with a gentle and quiet spirit, NOT with those who have a fleshy, flashy, loud mouth, disrespectful, and rebellious disposition.



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE CHRISTIAN HUSBAND 1 PETER 3:7

**Likewise you
husbands, dwell with
them (your wife)
with understanding,**





- The Christian husband must recognize the **nature** of his wife.
 - He must **study** and become **aware** of her moods, feelings, needs, worries, fears, and hopes--this takes time, effort, and energy.
 - This is an act of love (husbands are commanded to love their wives as Christ loves the church, Eph.5:25)

- **Problem:** Many men attempt to **rule** their wives--they do not take the time to understand their wives.
 - **Remember:** God did not command the man to make or force his wife to submit--he commanded the man to love his wife.
 - **Think about this:** God did not give the man dominion over the woman, He gave both man and woman dominion.
 - **Perspective:** I believe that men who are weak and have low self esteem seek to have total control over people and demand to have their own way all the time.

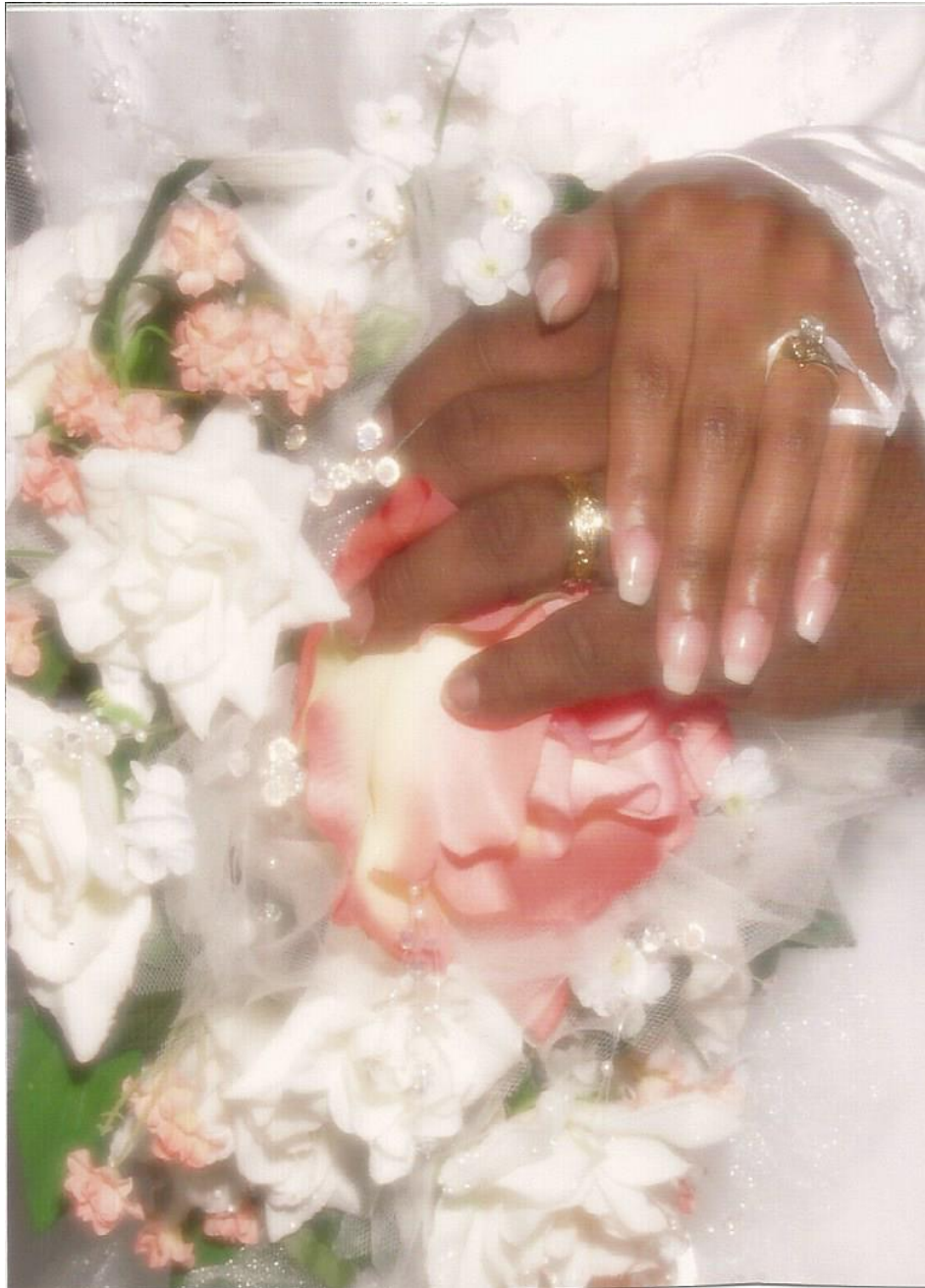




- Christian men who live with their wives with understanding will **love** their wives as Christ loves the church.
 - Like Christ, the husband will give himself for his wife's benefit--he will even be willing both to live for her and to die for her.
 - Like Christ, the husband will nourish and cherish his wife—he will be willing to meet her needs, physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually , even at his own expense (e.g., he will make her feel safe, secure, and satisfied).

- Christian men who live with their wives with understanding will be **respectful** of their wives.
 - He will NOT treat her like a “boy toy,” a slave, or a punching bag.
 - He will give her praise and recognition both privately, before the kids, and publicly (e.g., before family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, colleagues, associates, church members, etc.)





- He will never abuse her verbally or physically, nor ridicule her, slander her, or shame her.
- He will recognize that she is not only his wife, but his sister in the Lord and an heir and joint heir with Christ.
- **Reason:** He will respect his wife so that his prayers are not hindered due to his mistreatment of his wife (e.g., God will NOT hear your prayers if you are disrespectful of your wife!!)

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

- Does your family, community, and church see you as a godly respectful and faithful spouse?



RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



1. **Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for your sin, and that He arose again from the dead on the third day.
2. **Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
3. **Accept** the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.