

EXILE // PRACTICALLY EXILED (PART 2) // 1 PETER 3:1-7

The Woman of Every Man's Dreams (v 1-6)

Her witness (v 1-2) *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.*

submission (ὑποτάσσω - hupotasso) was a term meaning “to arrange in a military fashion under the command of a leader.” In non-military use, it was “a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.”

win implies gaining or acquiring. We see this same word (κερδαίνω - kerdaino) used by Paul in 1 Cor. 9 as he infers using any methods possible to win people to Christ. The wife's goal in this instance is to do the same.

- Even if the husband is disobedient, meaning they have outright rejected the truth, the wife is still to have chaste (irreproachable and pure) conduct towards her husband.

- Men are very visual (when they observe), and what Peter is beginning to get at here is that women can use this as a strategy to win them to Christ.

Her Persona (v 3-4) *Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*

- We see the word incorruptible again (1:4, 23). This imperishable quality is one that is gentle (a mild or meek disposition) and quiet (still, immovable, tranquil). And it is talking about a vital essence, not an outward fading corpse.

Her Heritage (v 5-6) *For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.*

- This type of woman adorned (κοσμέω - kosmeo - fashioned, prepared, arranged) themselves to be submissive and to have modest godliness.

- With Sarah, she obeyed (was submissive to) Abraham, even going as far as calling him lord (κύριος - kurios - master). This was a title of reverence not subservience.

- She came before, therefore in essence women after her are her daughters. And she was not afraid. She was absolutely fearless.

- Imagine not bearing a child until you are 90, and then thinking you have to give that child over as a sacrifice? Her submission to God definitely had to trump her submission to her husband. She trusted in God first.

The Man of Every Woman's Dreams (v 7)

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Considering her needs “dwell with them with understanding”

- Men need to cherish their wives and they must nurture them in every way imaginable. This takes constant willingness to sacrifice and be selfless.

Being a true gentleman “giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel”

- This is just referring to a physical nature. Women, generally speaking do not possess the physical capabilities that men do.

- That being said, men must even more bear the responsibility of being the sacrificial providers and protectors of their wives...

Honor here is referring to the value or real worth of the wife.

Companionship “and as being heirs together of the grace of life,”

- The husband has been called here to be a companion to his fellow heir of the grace of life. This is referring to the marriage relationship.

- Otherwise, the husband's prayers will be hindered. God's promise to a godly husband here is that his prayers will not be hindered.