

Book	1-Peter
Study	Study 10
Topic	Marriages in the New World
Reference	1 Peter 3:1-7
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How do we know what is a good marriage in this new world? It seems that there are a lot of marriages that we don't like really, like especially famous marriages. It doesn't look very nice. So, the question is, if Peter is giving us something in the Bible and it is the Word of God and it is leading us into this world that we are living in, where marriages seems so hard to grasp for people. In fact, the divorce rates in the church and outside the church, it's pretty much the same. What then is God's view of marriage and I am very conservative when it comes to this.

I am a person that studies worship and worship basic structure is this, God reveals himself and we respond. It is always just this thing that is happening. The symbol of marriage, the structure of worship is actually revealed through the symbol of marriage. The dialogue between husband and wife, that whole thing that is going on between revelation, the husband revealing the love for the wife, the wife responding to the husband and vice versa actually reflects this structure. So to me, the world's view of marriage is about

- Marriage Equality
- Expression of Love (Romantic)
- Mutual Benefit
- Necessary for Procreation
- Compatibility
- Sexually Fulfilling

My view of marriage is that it is ordained by God, it was created by God. Remember, in the beginning when God created the heavens and earth, when he created man, he said man it is not good, then only when he created both of them then it says in the image of God. So actually both man and woman would reflect the image of God. It is not both man and man and not woman and woman, it is man and woman. So actually, in the view of marriage in Peter's context when he was writing Peter,

Greco-Roman world orders things pragmatically in the design to maintain social stability. Marriage was how you keep people in order. If you forbid marriage, you have chaos. It was a very pragmatic solution. Marriage was seen as something that is pragmatic in life. All things are ordered so that the rulership of the people and the thriving of the empire will not be at stake.

That was happening in Peter's time. So now if you come to the biblical view of marriage, what is the biblical view of marriage. So our understanding of biblical view of marriage and some instances I was reading an article and the idea of marriage to him is that God created a companion for Adam. So Adam needed Eve and Eve needed Adam, both of them together will be able only to do what God desires them to do. I don't believe in that view. I believe that ultimately

- God created Man on the 6th day
- Said it is not good for man to be alone
- Created Woman from man
- Declared that they are made in the image of God
- The structure of worship is meant to be reflected in God

Most people see it like that, man has a certain image of God, woman has a certain image of God. What I study and what I understand is that man and woman together reflect the image of God. That means, it was not good and it was impossible for man alone to reflect the image of God. It was created so that man and woman, together reflect the image of God. So when he created man and he say, it is not good, it is because just man own will not reflect the image of God. It is the marriage of man and woman that will ultimately reflect the image of God.

For example, a lot of study say that, Holy Spirit shows more of his feminine character, the nurturing, the helping, so that's where we see it. So that's where I think the biblical view of marriage is long time is misunderstood as each of us carry the purpose. The image of God was not about something that is inherently in us, it was a purpose that God wanted us to fulfill and until today he has made sure that this image can be fulfilled because we have each other.

So basically, I am saying that, Man cannot reflect the image of God alone. Woman cannot reflect the image of God alone. Together in the dynamics of love we ultimately reflect God's image.

So the biblical view of marriage is

- Marriage as God's institution
- Marriage as a revelation/reflection of God's love
- Marriage as purposed by God for humanity to be fruitful and multiply
- Marriage as sexually serving
- Marriage as modelled after Christ and the Church

So that's why we believe in monogamy because it best reflects God's image. God created one woman for Adam only.

The Christian world sees the order of marriage as honouring transcendent values that are a reflection of God's character and values. They see marriage as ordained

by God affirming an equality that is complimentary. God decides the order and norms, not man. He establishes this by example through Christ.

Peter will begin to elaborate that. So it starts with, if you read 1-Peter 3:1-7, the most important thing that you look out for is the repeated words. We see the word, 'in the same way' written twice by Peter. He says it in verse 1 and then he says it on verse 7. So we need to answer first, when you are going through 1-Peter, in the same way. What is this way that Peter is talking about?

So it actually goes back to the earlier passage. So Peter is talking, in the same way is addressing the last passage, which is submission to authority. In the same way you are submitting to authority you are supposed to submit to your spouse. Submit to husbands in the same way you submit to God (even to your non-believing spouse). In this scenario, why I am saying that is because a lot of them historically in this point they had spouses coming into the faith and a lot of them were women. Women tend to respond to God a bit better.

In the same way, that means you submit to God in the same way you submit to authority. Instead of seeing yourself submitting to authority, you see yourself as submitting to God. So in the same way, if you see yourself submitting to your husbands, you are supposed to see God. That's the thing. There were people in the congregation itself that were saying, oh since you have a nonbelieving husband and he does not let you come to church, maybe you should think of divorcing him, maybe you should think of leaving the marriage, maybe you should think of not listening to him. In the same way, he will bring to the story when he talks about Sarah, perhaps sometimes even in unfavorable circumstances you need to submit and that's really hard to swallow these words.

The second thing he said, Do so not just by words but through your conduct. So if we read this one, it says

3 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,

Submission by Christian wives ought to show a voluntary and intentional choice on their part because of the example of Christ.

The world's definition of submission is, submissive (or passive) behavior means shying away from saying what you really mean and not seeking to achieve your needs, particularly when someone else has conflicting needs. A submissive person is a shrinking violet, avoiding upsetting others either because they fear them or they fear to hurt their feelings.

Another definition from the dictionary is the action of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of another person.

Another definition is, a submissive person is someone who willingly submits to the authority of another. A submissive person enjoys in a service-oriented mindset and finds peace of mind in taking orders from those he or she has placed in positions of power. This can be at home, in the workplace, among friends or in community relationships.

All three definitions of submission are wrong. The definition of submission is this, Christians to authority, you do it for God. Husbands and wives, you do it for God. Husband and wives can swap too. It is not just wife that have to submit every time. I am talking about a submission that understands that we submit to a higher authority, we submit out of love to someone that is greater than we are. It is talking about a submission, it is because the fact is, we are all called to be like the bride of Christ. So it is no shame for a man to submit to a woman in some sense.

Wives in Marriages.

- Modesty is the hallmark of women who are Christlike
- Cultural view of adornments are for purposes of seduction or attraction
- Christian beauty is an outward reflection of an inner reality as bearers of God's image.

Christ presented himself in a decent manner and that's very important because the inner beauty that we possess should outlook on our outward. It does not mean we take adornments and all those kinds of thing to hide.

Because of sin the image of God has been tainted and all of us don't know how to submit to God willingly anymore. We have lost this thing. You marry someone who is submitted to God, that's the most important thing. You don't need to look for, whether he is smart enough for you, whether he makes you secure or not, he has got good character, if he is submitted to God he will change. He will become the man that God needs him to be.

The task of submission calls us to submit like Christ even in unfavorable circumstances. So the story that is here, Peter used Sarah as a example of submission. Sarah was not always submissive, and it is very funny but most of the time she was. When God called Abraham, Sarah followed Abraham. She also struggled with her submission but the worse part of the submission was, Sarah even submitted even Abraham was wrong.

If we are looking in our submission to God, we don't submit to God just because of good times, we submit to God no matter what happens. In the same way in your marriages, your submission as wives to your husbands or vice versa is not dependent on what times or whether he is right or wrong or whether he is perfect or

whether he is a Christian or whether he is not a Christian. Your submission is because you are submitted to God and this is something that is lost in the world today.

Christ did not just won us because we are beautiful, Christ died for us even when we are unworthy. That submission to love us, to care for us, to go to the cross for us, even though he is the stronger vessel, he submitted himself to the cross. That is submission and that's the example we are supposed to follow as wives.

1 Peter 2:23

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

We live in a world that is very funny. The first wave of feminism says, 'we want to be equal to men'. Second wave say, we don't need men. Third wave of feminism say, 'we are men'. So the fourth wave of feminism would be very funny too.

So Peter begins to talk about equality. Equality in the eyes of the Bible

- Remember their wives as equal heirs to God's grace.
- Through the Father's love, Christ's sacrifice and the Holy Spirit's work, we are coheirs in the kingdom of God
- Husbands love and effort to honour their wives mirror God's response to us.
- Even though we are weaker vessels, God honours us as coheirs through Christ (Romans 8:17)

Romans 8:17 - New International Version

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

So husbands in the same way see that they are your equal. In our world, equality is seen as a threat instead of something that is beautiful. We think that submission means women are lesser than men, but it is not so.

God is love. But as we consider the nature of God, we can discern another reality, namely, that just as the second person of the Trinity can be called "Son" and the first person can be called "Father," so the Holy Spirit might be called "love" or "the bond of love" or perhaps "the sign of love." (Wyatt Graham)

So the Son is the eternal image that the Father has of his own perfections, and the Holy Spirit is the eternal love that flows between the Father and the Son as they delight in each other. (John Piper)

In the same way, wives and husband by love reflect that same image, just as the father loves the son. Marriages are supposed to look like how Christ submitted to

the father and how the church submits to Christ. That's how Peter came up with those kind of things, it is not because that is a hierarchy, so that reflection also looks when we love each other. So the last thing we must do is love. So the three things that how we are supposed to be able to keep ourselves submitted to God is: Purity, reverence and love.

⁷Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

This passage is talking about the mutual prayer. There is one accepted interpretation that because if you do not have this mutual submission and love and purity and reverence for fear of God and all those kind of things and you don't respect each other or you do not submit to one another, what happens is that you cannot sit down and pray together. There are a lot of people in marriages that don't pray together, and it is because there is no mutual submission. There is no purity, there is no reverence for God and none of this happening and that's what Peter was trying to say. If you do not love each other the way God wants you to do, if you do not understand this dynamics, how can you pray together. Your prayers will be hindered, in that way you are unable to pray together. That's one interpretation. Another interpretation is that, it anticipates

12 for the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who are evil.

So some interpret it to say that when you do not submit to your wives, you do not do this and you do not reflect, it is something evil and it is not righteous and therefore the Lord says. So submitting to your wife or not respecting each other and all the things that we've talked about, if you don't do it, it is evil in the lord's eyes and therefore if you are doing something that is evil, why would God listen to you.