

**TITLE: IS A WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE HOME?**

**TEXT: 1 PETER 3:1-7**

**THESIS:** To use this as the main text in demonstrating the role of both the wife & the husband in the home.

**INTRO:** The home is divinely ordained. God designed it to operate in a certain way, for certain purposes. As has always been the case, *as the home goes, so goes the church, the nation, and the world*. When the family operates by God's will, so does the church, nation, and world. It can't help but be this way! This nation ("Christian" nation) is rejecting God every day. This is because of the root problem...our families have rejected God. By following Peter's instructions, we can start to resolve this.

### **I. WIVES' RESPONSIBILITIES (v. 1-6):**

- A. *Likewise* (as Christ- no sin, guile, retaliation, selfishness) *be in subjection* (place under, subordinate, obey) *to your husbands*
  - 1. The husband is head of the wife (**Eph 5:23; 1 Cor 11:3**)
  - 2. This is *God's* role for women. It goes back to Adam and Eve (**Gen 3:16**).
- B. If the husband of a Christian wife *obeys not the word...* (he has 2 opportunities – hearing the truth & seeing the truth).
  - 1. **Hearing** – A Christian wife should *always* desire for her husband to be won by the word...through her own study with him, & through having men of the congregation study with him.
  - 2. **Seeing** – *won by her chaste* (clean, pure, modest) *conversation/behavior* (a woman in this situation has little room for error). A non-Christian (especially an unbelieving spouse) will look for any opportunity to speak against Christianity. If she loves his soul, she must always watch her behavior!
    - *in fear* (for God, or husband? Both! In having this reverential respect for God (**1:17; 2:17**), she must also have it for her husband, since God commands this –**Eph 5:33**).
- C. (**v. 3-4**) Proper adorning – an example of chaste conversation.
  - 1. Nothing wrong w/plaiting (elaborate braiding) the hair, wearing gold, having nice clothes (must be modest - **1 Tim 2:9**). The design of these things is to make herself beautiful to people around her (specifically her husband).
  - 2. \*But true beauty *is in the hidden man* (person) *of the heart*. Outward adorning is corruptible (clothes, jewels, etc.); but inward adorning, a meek (mild disposition) & quiet (still, peaceable) spirit, is incorruptible.
    - She is to love her husband and her children (**Titus 2:4**)
    - She is to be obedient to her husband (**Titus 2:4**)
    - She is to keep the home (**Titus 2:5; 1 Tim 5:14**). Does this mean she can't work? No. She *should* work!
    - **Prov 31** – the virtuous woman works w/her hands (**v. 13**), considers a field, buys it, and plants a vineyard (**v. 16**), she girds her loins with strength (**v. 17**), she perceives that her merchandise is good (**v. 18**). She's a worker! The widows were warned about becoming idle, tattlers, and busybodies (**1 Tim 5:13**).
    - The purpose in this work is *not* greed. It is *not* in order to get more 'stuff.' The purpose *is* to take care of the family's needs (physical *and* spiritual).
    - And finally, she is to teach the younger women all these things (**Titus 2:3-5**)
  - 3. This type of woman is very valuable to God (and to godly men); "high value" – high demand for it & low supply of it!
  - 4. **Prov 31:30** – "*Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.*"
- D. (**v. 5-6**) Example of the "old time" women
  - The "old time" holy women adorned themselves with this type of spirit - submitting to their husbands (e.g., Sarah).

### **II. HUSBANDS' RESPONSIBILITIES (v. 7):**

- A. *Likewise* (again, like Christ's example – **2:22-24** – *unselfish*)
- B. *Dwell with her* (live together) *according to knowledge* (of God's will for this relationship):
  - 1. He must show his love by recognizing and fulfilling his role as the *head of the wife* (**Eph 5:23, 1 Cor 11:3**)
    - Men, this is your *God-given responsibility*. Don't put her in a tough spot by **not fulfilling your role!**
  - 2. He must love her as Christ loved the church (**Eph 5:25** - "*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it.*" **v. 28** "*So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*"
  - 3. He must show his love for her by being the *leader of the home* (**Gen 3:16; Eph 6:4**). This entails working (**Gen 3:17-19**) to provide for his family's needs (**1 Tim 5:8**)
  - 4. He must show his love for her by fulfilling his marital responsibilities (**1 Cor 7:1-5; Heb 13:4**)
- C. *Honor* (value) *her as the weaker vessel* (generally the woman is not as strong. So husbands, love and protect her!)
  - 1. Never take her for granted
  - 2. Show appreciation for what she does (thank her for cooking breakfast, lunch, dinner, etc.)
- D. *As heirs together of the grace of life* (this life *or* eternal life) – In a male-dominated society, husbands must recognize that she is also an heir of the same rewards from God (this puts you two on the same level spiritually; although men and women have different roles in the family & church, **neither is more valuable to God!**)
- E. When a man treats his wife this way, he makes it easy for her to submit to his leadership (just the way it is for us with Christ!)
- F. *That your prayers be not hindered* – nobody who is disobedient to God should expect Him to hear and answer prayers!

**CONCLUSION:** We started by stating the importance of the home in shaping the direction of the church, nation, and world. It all begins in the family. To keep the world in tune to His will, God starts with the most basic building blocks of every society...the family. So we can certainly see the huge role that the **husband** plays in leading his family, and the **wife's** role in being obedient to this godly direction (as **1 Cor 11:3** says, authority is passed along the chain of 'God-Christ-man-woman,' then to children). So, is a woman's place in the home? Absolutely! Is her husband's place in the home? Absolutely! Both should do everything for the physical & spiritual benefit of the home!