

## "Likewise You Wives"

### Int.

1. Aim: To show some of the responsibilities of the wife to her husband.
2. Text - I Pet. 3:1-6 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;"
  - a. Likewise - "In like manner" asv
  - b. Peter had been discussing responsible behavior
    - (1) Christian Citizens are subject to government - 2:13-17
    - (2) Christian servant is subject to his master - 2:18-20
  - c. Now he switches to another part of their life - husband/wife relationship.
  - d. V. 7 was to husband "Dwell with them according to knowledge"
  - e. V. 1-6 to the wives
3. Advice to wives:
  - a. Be in subjection
  - b. Chaste behavior
  - c. Watch what you wear
  - d. A meek quiet spirit

## Discussion

### I. BE IN SUBJECTION - v. 1

A. Several verses in N.T.:

1. Eph. 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."
2. Eph. 5:24 "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."
3. Col. 3:18 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord."
4. I Cor. 11:3. "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is man; and the head of Christ is God."
5. Tit. 2:3-5 The older women are to teach the younger women to be "...obedient to their own husbands,..."

B. What does this mean?

1. Nature of this submission:
  - a. "To her own husband"
  - b. "As unto the Lord" - we lovingly submit ourselves unto the Lord, in response to his love. The wife is to submit to her husband in the same manner.
  - c. "As the church is subject unto Christ" - The church is not to assume headship of Christ no more than the wife is to assume headship of the husband.
  - d. "In every thing" - the exception would be if the husband requires his wife to do that which is disobedience to the word of God.
  - e. "As it is fit in the Lord" - This type of submission is ordained of God. It is fitting, proper, suitable and expected for those who are in the Lord.

2. What are the reasons for this submission

a. Man was created first

(1) I Tim. 2:12-13 "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve."

(2) God made man first to be the head, guide, leader, instructor.

(3) Adam had priority in Creation - God could have made Eve first or at the same time as he made Adam

b. Woman was taken from the man and not man from the woman

(1) I Cor. 11:8-12 v. 8-9 "For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."

(2) She was taken out of man and created as a separate being

(3) The two became one in marriage

c. Man is the image and glory of God and woman is the glory of the man

(1) I Cor. 11:7 "For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man."

(2) Woman was created of man for man - companion of man

(3) She adds to his dignity

d. Woman's part in the first transgression

(1) I Tim. 2:14 "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" Both Adam and Eve sinned

(2) Eve was deceived [believed Satan's lie], Adam just followed her

(3) After this sin, woman's subjection was increased - Gen. 3:16

C. How should wives think of this submission?

1. It does not mean inferiority or of less value
  - a. In many areas woman is superior
  - b. Certain skills, beauty, durability
2. There is joy and blessing in submission
  - a. When we submit to Christ, we lose our life in subjection to Him, we really find it.
  - b. Same is true in marriage
3. Submit to your husband even when you do not agree with him
  - a. You will find that he will become more and more considerate
  - b. "An obedient wife rules her husband." - Augustine
4. Subjection does not mean you have no part in making decisions.
  - a. When a mutual decision cannot be reached, the decision of the husband must abide.
  - b. If two people are riding on a horse, one must ride behind.
  - c. In the marriage one must be in authority [husband] and the other must be in submission [wife].
  - d. Every team has a leader. God has given that position to the husband.

D. What happens if the wife will not submit?

1. She forces the husband to become a kind of person that neither will be proud of.
2. He will either become a tyrant or a passive, hen pecked, person.
3. It shows disrespect for both God and her husband.
4. When a wife decides that she should liberate herself from any and all submission to her husband she is asking for trouble.

- E. A woman gains much by being submissive in every realm commanded by God and this includes submission to her husband in the home.

## **II. CHASTE BEHAVIOR MAY WIN YOUR HUSBAND TO CHRIST**

- A. "While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." 1 Pet. 3:2 the word  
Chaste means = clean, innocent, modest, pure
- B. Some husbands are not Christians
  - 1. They have heard the truth but chose not to obey
  - 2. The wives can do something which will help win them!
  - 3. Chaste Behavior
- C. What is chaste behavior?
  - 1. Godly living
  - 2. This includes submission to her own husband
  - 3. It includes all the responsibilities of a Christian wife
  - 4. She is to be an example
  - 5. Pure from every fault, holy, clean, free from any mixture of evil, free from defilement.
- D. Without the word
  - 1. That is without a word from the wife
  - 2. Her influence will have a strong affect upon him.
  - 3. Silent eloquence is more effective than vigorous debate, in this case.
  - 4. The best sermon is the godly life of his wife
  - 5. Godly conduct of the wife will win the husband !

E. Coupled with fear

1. Reverence, respect for her husband
2. Eph. 5:33b "and the wife see that she reverence her husband"
3. She respects her husband because she fears her God

**III. WATCH WHAT YOU WEAR!**

A. "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." 1 Pet. 3:3-4

B. Adorning

1. Could not be taken literally for it would prohibit putting on any clothes
2. Peter meant for them to understand that the inner adornment was more important
3. Adorn the heart —

C. Let it not be:

1. Outward - braiding of hair, wearing of jewels, apparel
2. This does not forbid women to wear jewels or to adorn themselves in modest apparel
3. I Tim. 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;"
4. Forbidden is vanity

D. Dressing "inwardly" is the way to show God to an unbelieving husband.

#### **IV. A MEEK AND QUIET SPIRIT**

- A. The inward man is the new man
  - 1. Meek - not self-will, envy or pride, but with a desire to please God.
  - 2. Quiet spirit - calm, tranquil, at peace — does not usurp her husband's authority
  
- B. Promotes peace & Harmony
  - 1. Unity and harmony are not necessarily the same thing.
  - 2. You can tie two tom-cats together by the tails and throw them over the clothes line. This is unity, but it is not harmony.
  - 3. How can we have peace and harmony in the home?
    - a. Not by living a worldly life
    - b. Not by totally ignoring each other - living separate lives - each going their own ways
    - c. One or the other can take wrong and be hurt and have a certain amount of peace - but that is not harmony.
  - 4. The only way we can have peace and harmony is to follow God's will for the home.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. An example - Sarah obeyed Abraham
  - a. "For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement." 1 Pet. 3:5-6
  - b. Lord - title of honor - Gen. 18:12 - Respected and honored
2. You are her daughters
  - a. Follow this example
  - b. Do well -
3. Likewise ye wives:
  - a. Be in subjection to your husband
  - b. Live a chaste life and help win your husband to Christ
  - c. Watch the inward Character
  - d. The best spirit is meek & quiet