

# “Whose Daughters You Are...”

## 1 Peter 3:1-6

**Introduction** – The unbelieving world and most of the professing church today, will either stand against these verses, or try desperately to re-interpret them. “Obviously,” you may be tempted to think, “Peter wasn’t aware of my husband”. But the point of this passage is that God knows precisely your situation and has a word for you. Your hope in God, your Christianity, is a radical hope, and it must manifest itself in radical ways as you live with your husband.

**Wives, likewise** – Wives are not slaves and so the previous passage did not include them. But they are to submit likewise. Likewise, that is, to Christ’s submission.

**Be Submissive** – The Greek means ‘to be submissive’, to be under the authority of another. Those who do not want to use this word, let alone obey it, disparage the name and work of Jesus Christ, who gladly submitted to His Father’s will (consider the authority and servitude of the Shepherd of your soul – 2:25). Your husband is responsible to teach how to submit by example, for He is to imitate Christ (John 13:12-17). Also, this submission to one man excludes submission to men in general. “...*be submissive to your own husbands*”.

**The Power to Change Him** – Marriage is a covenant with attendant blessings and curses. Normally, God uses the Word preached to effectually change a man. The power of an obedient wife is another instrument God intends to use and is manifested through -

**No Words** – Nagging does not work (it never makes him a leader). And if it does, your husband is weaker than you thought. It is an indication of your lack of trust in God, fear of God, respect for your husband, and faith in His promises from these verses.

**Chaste Conduct** – Your joyful obedience to the Lord will not be missed. Learn to look in the mirror of the Word to see ‘how you look’ (James 1:23) with as much attention as you look in the mirror in your bathroom. For God intends to use your faithfulness in that covenant with great blessing.

**Fear** – Once again (2:13, 18), appropriate fear towards a husband flows from a holy fear of God. Words of respect, deference and honor come from your lips because of the office he serves and the God whom you serve.

**Adornment Matters** (vv 3-4) – The Greek is interesting – ‘*adornment*’ is ‘*kosmos*’, translated everywhere else, ‘*world*’. And literally, the end of verse three reads, ‘...*or putting on clothes*’. Obviously, a wife is to wear clothes, and a godly wife ought to dress well (Prov 31:22) and ought to care about her hair, for it is a glory to her and a sign of her husband’s authority (1 Cor 11:5-9).

**Beauty from Within** – The point is not that wives should dress plainly (although modesty is in view). She is to be adorned. But the adornment is to start from an ‘incorruptible’ beauty. Remember the use of this word in 1 Pet 1:4, 1:18-19, 1:23. This gentle and quiet spirit is not a personality trait. It is the identification of a woman who has the life of Christ in her, who hopes in God, and who submits to Him with holy fear and love.

**Precious** – Get this right. Internal beauty is the fountainhead of true beauty which is to be expressed outwardly. Not only is it precious, it is *very precious in the sight of God*.

**Holy Women Who Trusted God** (vv 5-6) – When they were submitting and serving, holy women did so hoping in God. In just the same way as citizens hope “*to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men*” (2:13) and slaves hope to reveal the grace of God at work in their lives before God (2:19), so holy women trust in God.

**Adorned Themselves** – Here is the main point of the discussion about dress, makeup and hairstyles. These women adorned themselves in a particular way (with a gentle and quiet spirit) because they trusted in God and because they were submissive to their husbands. What you wear and why you dress the way you do reveals spiritual truths about yourself.

**Sarah** – Is Sarah a good example? Her faith was tested, and when she stumbled, the Lord rebuked her (Gen 18:13-15). But she gives God the glory when Isaac is born (Gen 21:5-6). Apparently, the rebuke restored her faith, for Heb 11:11 teaches us that ‘*she judged Him faithful who had promised*’.

**Calling Him ‘Lord’** – Respect for a husband, just like love for a wife, must be verbalized, and must be the common language and demeanor of the house.

**Do Good and Fear Not** – The doing of good is not simply a general command, but specifically with regard to the things Peter has been addressing. And these things are connected to not fearing any terror (interesting word for these days). A woman who understands that her submission places her under the protection of her husband and knows how to rest there (as in the providential hand of God) sleeps well each night. The presence of hope drives out fear.

**Godly Submission** – What makes you a daughter of Sarah? What makes the submission of a wife to her husband *godly* submission?

It is full of fear in God and submission to God –

It is full of hope and trust in God –

It is full of expectation in God and His providential means of bringing change –

It is adorned with beauty, chaste behavior, and gentleness –

It is adorned with respectful words to her husband and about her husband -

Dave Hatcher – January 13,

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