

# First Epistle of Peter

## Part 4: Suffering as a Witness to Christ (2:11-4:11)

### Session 2: Christian Wives and Husbands 3:1-7

Videos of this Bible may be found on YouTube under “Joseph Polzin”, or through this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHtqiS3iZfCsFPTp1bb-HrQ/>

- I. “Submit” or “be subject to” (vv. 1 and 5) often carries negative connotations nowadays, especially when relating to men and women, but it simply means “to be in proper order.” For instance, look at the two examples in 2:13-17 and then 2:18-20. Both of these start with the same word, “submit” or “be subject to.”
  - a. Briefly, what is the proper order between citizens and rulers? (2:13-17)
  - b. Briefly, what is the proper order between servants and masters? (2:18-20)
  - c. Importantly, what is the proper order between God the Father and God the Son? Who “submitted”/“was subject to” whom? Was that a positive or a negative thing with God?
    - i. Look at 2:23. To whom did he entrust himself? What did he have to endure while he did so?
    - ii. What was the outcome of his actions (v. 24)?
    - iii. Now what is our “proper order” with Christ (v. 25)?
- II. Read also Ephesians 5:22-33. (Notice who has more said to them between wives and husbands.) With *all* of this in mind, is Peter instructing something negative in 3:1?
  - a. What is he saying, specifically to women who find themselves married to a non-Christian? (cf. 1 Cor. 7:12-16.)
  - b. What could be the outcome of the wife’s “respectful and pure conduct” (vv. 1 and 2)?
  - c. How might a Christian woman “suffer” in a marriage to a non-Christian? What should be her response (cf. 2:19)?

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d. What are some situations that women should *not* continue in attempting to maintain a marriage?

III. Peter contrasts the “external adorning” of v. 3 with the “internal adorning” of v. 5. Why would that be an important part of a Christian’s witness, especially in a pagan society?

a. How is that true for all of us today?

b. How is vv. 5-6 supporting what we discussed in v. 1?

IV. God made men and women with equally important, yet different characteristics psychologically, emotionally, physically, etc. (i.e. men and women are equal but different, and that’s a good thing, because those differences between men and women are what help serve God’s created order).

Peter refers to women as the “weaker vessel,” which is not meant to be a negative or derogatory comment, but is simply referring to the general physical difference between men and women.

a. How does the sinful world exploit this difference?

b. What is God’s way, given this difference?

c. How is Peter asking husbands to act on account of it? (cf. Eph. 5:28-29)

d. What witness to his faith does a man give if he lives in such a way?

e. What does Peter say about women in v. 7 that indicates their complete equal status with men in God’s eyes?