

The Beauty of Quiet Submission

1 Peter 3:1-6

Believing wives testify to the beauty of the gospel when, because of hope in God, they quietly submit to their husbands even in difficult and disagreeable circumstances.

1. What is submission?

- a. It is outward _____.
- b. It is inward _____.

2. What submission is not.

- a. It is not _____ compliance.
- b. It is not _____ subservience.

3. Who should submit?

- a. Believing wives _____.
- b. Believing wives _____.

*The Letter to
God's Elect*



I Peter

W

N

E



A wooden clothespin is clipped to a piece of white paper. The paper is placed on a dark, textured wooden surface. A piece of light-colored twine is stretched across the top of the paper, passing through the clothespin. The text on the paper is written in a dark red, cursive font.

*The Beauty of
Quiet Submission*

1 Peter 3:1-6

1 Peter 3:1-4

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

1 Peter 3:5-6

For in this way in former times the holy women also,
who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves,
being submissive to their own husbands.

Just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord,
and you have become her children if you do what is right
without being frightened by any fear.

Believing wives testify to the beauty of the gospel when, because of hope in God, they quietly submit to their husbands even in difficult and disagreeable circumstances.

The Beauty of Quiet Submission

What is submission?

What is submission?

It is outward compliance.

The Command

1 Peter 3:1-2

In the same way, you wives,

be submissive to your own husbands

so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word,
they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,
as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

The Example

1 Peter 3:5-6

For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. Just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

Peter equates these holy women's submission to their husbands with Sarah's obedience to Abraham.

1 Peter 3:5-6

For in this way in former times the holy women also,
who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves,

being submissive to their_{own} husbands.

Just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord,

and you have become her children if you do what is right
without being frightened by any fear.

Genesis 18:12

And Sarah laughed to herself, saying,
“After I have become old, shall I have pleasure,
my lord being old also?”

Sarah's reference to Abraham as "my lord" demonstrated a settled attitude toward him that reflected her willingness to obey him.

What is submission?

It is outward compliance.

It is inward consent.

1 Peter 3:1-4

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

Biblical submission is the outward manifestation of an inward calm and contentment that produces genuine consent.

“Quietness” is not the same as silence.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

A quiet spirit is one
“that calmly bears the disturbances
created by others and that does not
itself create disturbances.”

We are all called to quietness.

A word to about authorities.

The gospel does not remove
authority structures.

It re-shapes them.

Re-shaped Authority

Matthew 20:25-26

But Jesus called them to Himself, and said,
“You know that the rulers of the **Gentiles** lord it over them,
and their great men exercise authority over them.

It is **not so among you**, but whoever wishes to become
great among you shall be your servant.”

Re-shaped Authority

1 Peter 5:1-3

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

The Beauty of Quiet Submission

What is submission?

What submission is not.

What submission is not.

*It is not **absolute** compliance.*

1 Peter 3:1-2

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, ***having beheld your pure behavior in fear.***

Godly submission is always
under the governance of God.

Some of their hardship would
have resulted from obedience to
God and rejection of paganism.

A Word About Abuse.

The Bible **does not** condone abuse.

The legal condition of first century women was very different from the legal condition of women in western cultures.

A Word About Abuse.

**Godly men will not practice
nor tolerate abuse of any kind.**

What submission is not.

It is not absolute compliance.

It is not slavish subservience.

1 Peter 3:1-4

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands
so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word,
they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

having beheld your pure behavior ***in fear***.

Your adornment must not be merely external—
braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;
but let it be the hidden person of the heart,
with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit,

which is precious **in the sight of God.**

This is a woman walking consciously of God,
aware of **His** watchfulness over her
and trusting in **His** care of her.

**She understands where
she stands with Him.**

1 Peter 3:5-6

For in this way in former times the holy women also,
who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves,
being submissive to their own husbands.

Just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord,
and you have become her children if you do what is right
without being frightened by any fear.

Her submission is motivated...

Not by a sense of inferiority

Not by fear of her husband's tyranny

Not by the weakness of her own personality

But by the strength of her true identity.

1 Peter 3:7

You husbands in the same way,
live with your wives in an understanding way,
as with someone weaker, since she is a woman;
and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life,
so that your prayers may not be hindered.

If we tie a wife's submission in any way
to male superiority, we dangerously
distort the nature of God...
and grossly belittle the servanthood
of Christ.

The Beauty of Quiet Submission

What is submission?

What submission is not.

Who should submit?

Who should submit?

Believing wives then.

1 Peter 3:1-2

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, *having beheld your pure behavior in fear.*

Who should submit?

Believing wives then.

Believing wives now.

Peter ties wives' submission to **eternal** values that are precious to God and that He will reward.

1 Peter 3:1-4

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, *having beheld your pure behavior in fear.*

Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

Peter also disconnects submission from these wives' cultural context and ties it to holiness, to faith, and to righteousness.

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who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves,
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without being frightened by any fear.

For Consideration:

Obedience is not obedience if it is coerced.

True obedience is **willing** obedience.

If willing obedience to another diminishes value and harms identity, then the Son of God's value was diminished and His identity harmed.

A Conclusion...

Each of us is called to submit to various authorities and to do so willingly in submission to Christ.

Is your attitude toward submission governed by your belief that you belong to Christ.