Singapore Bible College Alex Lim Keng Chiew

06th March 2009 Mail box: 486

Speaker: 2 Message 3 of 3

**Submit Your Marriage to God**

**Or, I will**

***1 Peter 3:1-7***

Topic: Marriage

Theme: Why should Christian couples submit their marriages to God?

Thrust: The reasons Christian couples should submit to God in their marriages is so that the wives can win their husbands to the Lord and that the husbands’ prayers will not be hindered.

Purpose: For those who are married, they will be encouraged to submit their marriages to God especially in tough times. For those who are still single, they will be aware or reminded of the roles and responsibilities as husband and wife.

Meditation: 1 Peter 3:1-7

Reading: 1 Peter 3:1-7

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| **Intro:**  Arouse  Interest  Subject  Bkgrd  Text  Preview  Scriptural Reading  MP I  MP I  Restated  SP “A”  Imp  SP “B”  ILL  Explain  submission  SP “C”  ILL  Transition  MP II  SP “A”  ILL  SP “B”  ILL  SP “C”  Imp  Conclusion  MI  MPs | Some of us might have heard these saying about marriage. There are three types of ring that we possibly wear during our life time. They are engagement ring, wedding ring and suffering. You may be wondering why people still give themselves to marriage despite hardship. Don’t they know what they are getting themselves into in the first place? Some of us who are still single might have heard of the horrible stories of abuses or mistreatments from our relatives that turn you off or give you a second thought about getting married?  How should Christian couples perceive their marriages?  Peter urged couples to submit their marriages to God despite tough times in First Peter. Peter encouraged the Christian couples stand up for their faith base on the household code he has given.  Let’s see what are in the house code that Peter has given in 1 Peter 3:1-7 that are instructive to us. This list is not meant to be exhaustive. Nevertheless, Peter used it to address various difficulties or issues that arise in Christian households. Let’s examine one reason each why both the wife and husband must submit to each other. 1 Peter 3:1-7 Basically, Peter was advocating that wives should submit to their husbands as a good testimony before the Lord (1 Peter 3:1-6).On the onset, this passage does not warrant the ladies to married a non-Christian man so as to convert him later. In context, this passage applied to a wife who has already married a husband who is a non-believer but later became a Christian on her own accord. Culturally, woman normally follows the husband’s belief and not the other way round. Thus, wife is exhorted to submit to her husband as a good testimony before the Lord so as to win her husband to the LordDespite the fact that I am already a Christian, my wife’s testimony is still relevant and important before the Lord. More so, because of her submission to me as a husband, she wins (1-2) my father’s approval of being a good daughter-in-law. Moreover, she speaks well of me especially among her colleagues thus show how much she has trusted my judgment in decision making which her friends feel that she has a good husband – a gift from the Lord. Furthermore, her purity and reverent conduct before the Lord has won her many accolade among her friends and neighbors. Secondly, the wife pleases the Lord by godly character, not outward beauty (3-4). One of gentle and quiet spirit.  My former boss used to tell me that if we as husbands only look at the outward beauty of our wives then we should consider carefully by looking at their mothers or grandmothers which we have to live by after a few decades after married. He was glad that I have chosen my wife because of her gentle in spirit and firmness in her principles. My boss asked me for the reason of my choice because my wife a twin sister - the younger one is prettier because she has bigger eyes.  Furthermore, submission is not giving up your rights or losing your personality. Rather, as wife, you are encouraged to display your Christian character boldly. Thus, changing your surname that follows your husband does not mean that you lose your self-esteem. Last but not least, wife submits to your husband just like other godly woman before you (5-6). Peter cited godly woman in the past as an encouragement as to why the wives should submit to their husbands. He was urging them to stand firm and stand up for their faith by doing right and not to give in to fear.In most of my conflicts that I have encountered my wife, she will not insist on her rights neither show sign of giving in. Rather she will be persists in reasoning out with me with firmness. She is careful with the choice of words she used so as not to hurt me unnecessarily. Thus, my wife has demonstrated how to be assertive without being aggressive. To me, this requires wisdom and patience in resolving conflicts. Now, let’s turn our attention to the role of a husband. Peter seemed to implore the husband to submit to your wife because the husband is a stronger spiritual leader (1 Peter 3:7). This idea of submission on husband’s part is not a new teaching. Even though a husband’s submission may have been counter-cultural but this is in line with Paul’s teaching as well (Eph. 5:21). Anyway passages before (cf. 2:18-25 submission in the workplace) and after (cf. 3:8-12 submission to church) are advocating submission is supposed to be found in various aspects of a believer’s life. Ultimately, Peter was implying that being a Christian result in being a better citizen in the state)Husband, protects her as she is physically weaker (7a). We have heard of many newspaper reports on family abuses and battery of the wife normally. The needs for anger management or anger control among the husbands are great. I only can hope that we have not lay our hands on our wives and pray that we will not be tempted. Alas, I did once to my shame. I can’t recalled what was the issue but remember the pain that I have inflicted on my dear wife. Feeling sorry till now even though she has forgiven me. Well, others may be guilty of verbal abuse since there is not going to have any concrete evidence unless there is a witness or conversation being taped. Don’t get me wrong, I am not in the interest in making us feel guilty but to highlight to us as husband that we fail so easily in this aspect.A husband should treat his wife well because she also shares in the same blessings (7b). Many a time, I have forgotten that my wife is also created in the image of God that requires me to show her the due respect. I am wrong to view her of any lesser. All the more so, since we share in the same faith or salvation. I used to portray her as someone fierce in my conversation with others. However, after some counseling from my boss that I shouldn’t since I have chosen her out of my free will. I have to learn to live by the decision. I discovered that I have only change this couple of years in SBC. It is great to be here studying God’s word that has indeed transformed my life. Overtime, I have learnt to think of my wife’s goodness and strengths rather than on her weaknesses or short coming.Husband, submit to your wife so that your communications with the Lord remains effective (7c).I never knew that the way I relate with my wife can become a possible hindrance in my prayer (cf. Matt.5:23, 6:14). I think the tougher part for me is to be humble and learn to say that I am sorry sincerely. As you can see it is not easy either for the husband to fulfill his role. Nevertheless, we can be grateful because these words help us to build a strong relationship with our spouse. This is not an exhaustive list but suffice to persuade the readers to submit to one another in the Lord in their marriages. As a godly couple, submit your marriage to God by doing well in your respective roles.I. Wife, submit to your spouse as a good testimony so as to win your husband to the Lord. II. Husband, submit to your spouse as you lead. 1. In what aspect do you need to pay more attention in relating with your spouse?2. For those of us who are still single, are you ready to submit to your spouse-to-be by fulfilling these roles? |

**Study Questions (Step 1)**

**Content: What did the author record just prior to this passage?**

The author recorded the example of Christ’s submission to God in his sufferings for the sake of our salvation. (1 Peter 2:21-25)

**Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?**

The author intent to encourage the Christian couples in the church to remain steadfast in their marriages by doing right despite sufferings and tough times in bearing witness for Christ. Moreover, this was only part of what it meant to submit to God. Peter also encouraged wives to be faithful to her responsibilities regardless of their husbands’, religion. Likewise, the husbands were to show respect and consideration to their wives even though others maybe abusive to their spouses.[[1]](#footnote-1) These instructions are seen as bucking the trend in the society!

**Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?**

The church was under persecutions for their faith in Christ. Peter was reminding the Christians of Christ’s example of suffering for our benefits so ‘in the same way’ for all our relationships with one another. This ranges from family to workplace. Moreover, Peter was showing practically how Christians could please God in these relationships in their troubled times. This Christian lifestyle and conduct that Peter described will force the hostile pagans to recognize Christian genuineness. Christians fear God, not people. Furthermore, they are freed in Christ. Thus, as disciple of Christ, one chooses to submit themselves to others freely.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Peter’s instructions for the husbands were brief probably because the family normally followed the husband’s religious choice.[[3]](#footnote-3) This explains why wives were instructed to win over their husbands to the Lord and not the other way round.

**Questions:**

1. Are these commands an exhaustive list for both husband and wife?
2. What are the similar issues that we face?
3. What are the implications in our present society?
4. What does prayer have to do with pleasing God?

**Outline (Steps 2-4)**

**I will**

***1 Peter 3:1-7***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

**Exegetical Idea (CPT):**

**The reasons Christian couples should submit to God in their marriages is so that wives could win their husbands to the Lord and that the husbands’ prayers will not be hindered.**

1. **The reason a wife should submit to her husband is because it may win him to the Lord and it pleases God (1 Peter 3:1-6).**

1. A wife should please the Lord by her submissive behavior towards her husband so that the unbelieving husband maybe won over to the Lord. (v.1-2)
2. A wife should please the Lord not by her outward dressing but rather by her inward and lasting beauty. (v.3-4)
3. A wife is encouraged to follow the example of godly woman in the past because it pleased the Lord by doing what was right. (v.5-6)
4. **The reason husband should also submit to his wife so that his prayer would be effective. (1 Peter 3:7).**
5. A husband should submit to his wife because she is a physical weaker spouse to you. (v. 7a)
6. A husband should submit to his wife because she shared the same beneficially of life. (v. 7b)
7. A husband should submit to his wife so that his communication with the Lord maybe effective. (v.7c)

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

For those who are married, they will be encouraged to submit their marriages to God, especially in tough times. For those who are still single, they will be aware or reminded of the roles and responsibilities as husband and wife.

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18th March 2008 Mail box: 486

Speaker: 2 Message 3 of 3

**I will**

***I Peter 3:1-7***

**Homiletical Outline** (Steps 5-6)

# Subject: Why should Christian couples submit to God in their marriages?

# Introduction

### Interest: Some says marriage is a long term investment, other says it is about love and commitment.

### Subject: How should Christian couples perceive their marriages?

### Background: Peter urged couples to submit their marriages to God despite tough times.

### Text: 1 Peter 3:1-7

### Preview: Let’s look at one reason each why both the wife and husband must submit to each other.

# I. Wife, submit to your husband as a good testimony before the Lord (1 Peter 3:1-6).

## A wife can win her husband to the Lord by her submissive behavior (1-2).

## The wife pleases the Lord by godly character, not outward beauty (3-4).

## The wife submits to your husband just like other godly woman before you (5-6).

# II. Husband, submit to your wife as a stronger spiritual leader (1 Peter 3:7).

## Husband, protects her as she is physically weaker (7a).

## A husband should treat his wife well because she also shares in the same blessings (7b).

## Husband, submit to your wife so that your communications with the Lord remains effective (7c).

# Conclusion

### MI – As a godly couple, submit your marriage to God by doing well in your respective roles.

### MPs – I. Wife, submit to your spouse as a good testimony so as to win your husband to the Lord.

II. Husband, submit to your spouse as you lead.

### 3. Applications: 1. Wife, submit to your husband by living such good testimony that he may be won over to the Lord.

2. Husband, submit to your wife by protecting and treating her well so that your prayers will not be hindered.

3. As a Christian couple, commit your marriage to God for better or for worse.

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2nd April 2008 Mail box: 486

Speaker 2 Message 3 of 3

**I will**

***1 Peter 3:1-7***

**Homiletical Outline (Steps 5-6)**

# Subject: Why should Christian couples submit to God in their marriages?

# Introduction

### Interest: Three rings of marriage (engagement ring, wedding ring and suffering)

### Subject: How should Christian couples perceive their marriages?

### 3. Background: Peter urged couples to submit their marriages to God despite tough times.

### 4. Text: 1 Peter 3:1-7

### 5. Preview: Let’s look at one reason each why both the wife and husband must submit to each other.

# I. Wife, submit to your husband as a good testimony before the Lord (1 Peter 3:1-6).

## A wife can win her husband to the Lord by her submissive behavior (1-2). (ILL: Indirectly, in a wider context, my wife’s testimony before her father-in-law wins his approval)

## The wife pleases the Lord by godly character, not outward beauty (3-4). (ILL: My wife gentle spirit attracted me to her)

## The wife submits to your husband just like other godly woman before you (5-6). (ILL: My wife demonstrates how to be assertive without being aggressive)

# II. Husband, submit to your wife as a stronger spiritual leader (1 Peter 3:7).

## Husband, protects her as she is physically weaker (7a). (ILL: bully her or hurt her emotionally with words in our quarrels)

## A husband should treat his wife well because she also shares in the same blessings (7b). (ILL: Overtime, I have learnt to think positive about my wife)

## Husband, submit to your wife so that your communications with the Lord remains effective (7c). (ILL: The need to apologize)

# Conclusion

### MI – As a godly couple, submit your marriage to God by doing well in your respective roles.

### MPs – I. Wife, submit to your spouse as a good testimony so as to win your husband to the Lord.

II. Husband, submit to your spouse as you lead.

### 3. Applications: 1. In what aspect do you need to pay more attention in relating with your spouse?

2. For those of us who are still single, are you ready to submit to your spouse-to-be by fulfilling these roles?

1. J Ramsey Michael, *Word Biblical Commentary* (vol. 49; Waco, Texas: Word Books Publisher, 1988), 171-72 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter* (The way of the cross; Leicester, England: InterVarsity Press, 1994), 127 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Frank E. Gaebelein, *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary* (vol. 12; Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981), 237 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)