

## **Winning Husbands**

### **1 Peter 3:1–6 (NKJV)**

1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

Last week we introduced this passage without really getting into why Peter is writing this to them.

Many time in the first century as it is today a woman might hear the gospel and come to faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

But what about her family and especially her husband.

Paul has some words that help us understand what we are saying.

1 Corinthians 7:12–16 (NKJV)

12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. 15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

Marriage was very different in Peter's day. Often among the Jews and even the pagans marriages were arraigned by parents and especially the wife had little to say in the matter.

Christianity came along and taught that wives should love their husbands.

Titus 2:3–4 (NKJV)

3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

Christianity also lifted women up to be equal with men.

Regardless of our opinion on those customs, wives today have a say in who they marry and so it is their choice.

And they do love their husbands or they would not have married them.

So if this applied in ancient times then it surely ought to apply today.

So if you become a Christian but your husband has not then this verse has a particular application to you.

I. Wives are to win their unsaved husbands.

A. The husbands who do not obey the Word are to be won with out words.

1. So the husband is not a believer but the wife is.
2. What is she to do about that.
3. Paul told us that if he is willing to keep her, that she is not to divorce him.
4. But her new found love of God should persuade her to want to see her husband saved as well.
5. Many women go to the old standard, that of complaining and trying to convince him with arguments and pleadings.
6. Peter has a better idea, that of showing the husband the difference Jesus has made in her life.

B. Wives are not to win them with their beauty and or adornment.

1. He is not saying that beauty and adornment is of no value.
  - a. Sarah must of been very beautiful.
    - (1) Abraham was worried that at 65 she might tempt someone to kill him in order to have this beautiful woman.
  - b. Ruth
    - (1) When Ruth went to lay at Boaz's feet Naomi told her to "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your *best* garment and go down to the threshing floor; *but* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." Ruth 3:3-4 (NKJV)
  - c. The Shulamite was beautiful in the Song of Solomon and has passages that would make us blush to read in mixed company.
2. Beauty and adornment are such hallow items and reflect not character or the state of the inner being.
  - a. Many a man has married the most beautiful girl in their class and found out later they should have married character.

- C. They are to win them with their chaste conduct accompanied by the fear of the Lord.
1. Look at the Proverbs 31 woman.
    - a. Proverbs 31:10–11 (NKJV)
      - (1) <sup>10</sup> Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth *is* far above rubies. <sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.
    - b. Proverbs 31:25-26, 30 (NKJV)
      - (1) <sup>25</sup> Strength and honor *are* her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. <sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue *is* the law of kindness.
      - (2) <sup>30</sup> Charm *is* deceitful and beauty *is* passing, But a woman *who* fears the LORD, she shall be praised.
- D. They are to be won by their attitude of the heart and the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.
1. The story is told of a wife who was finished with her husband and wanted out. She came to a counselor to discuss the matter. The counselor perceived that it might be her abusive attitude that was a lot of the problem. He also picked up on that she had come to hate her husband and wanted to not only leave him but to hurt him badly. When he questioned her about that she admitted that she wanted to hurt him as much as possible. So the counselor suggested that if she left her husband now that he would probably be glad to see her go. So he told her to go home and be the perfect wife to him. To treat him better than ever before. After she had done that for some time, then up and leave him and he would be really hurt.
 

Several months later he happened to run into her at the Mall and asked if she had left her husband yet. To which she replied, left my husband, no. He is just the nicest person in the world and he treats me so good.
  2. Our attitudes often reap what they sow.
  3. If a wife really loves her husband then she will do whatever it takes to help him to see Christ in her life.
  4. Many a wife has brought her husband to Jesus in just this way.
- E. This is more than who is in charge, it is a matter of eternal destiny.
1. The greatest gift, the greatest task, our most important role is to be a witness for Jesus.

2. Are we actively enlisting people, especially in our family to know Jesus.
3. The time we spend here will someday seem vain if we don't win our loved ones to Jesus.

## II. Old Testament Example

- A. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.
  1. Sarah and Abraham are the most significant couple outside of Adam and Eve in the Bible.
  2. God communicated with Abraham and Sarah followed Abraham's lead.
  3. Even calling him lord.
  4. Now you understand why this world hates the Bible.
- B. Ruth is also a good example as we have seen.
  1. Ruth 3:11 (NKJV)
    - a. <sup>11</sup> And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you *are* a virtuous woman.
  2. When she laid down at his feet she was putting herself under his authority.
  3. How did that work out for her.
  4. She becomes the great-grandmother of David the king, a man after God's own heart.