

ALIENS

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

Mutual Submission in Marriage

1 Peter 3:1-12

◆For wives...

God really wants to honor those who submit in difficult circumstances because they trust God.

◆For husbands...

Not respecting your wife blocks your prayers.

Getting Started: Growing up, was there a marriage you considered a good marriage? Why?

Digging In: Read verses 1 and 7 aloud. What is Peter pointing to for husbands and wives when he says “in the same way”? What does 2:23-25 say about the submission of Jesus? List all the commands to wives. Why does Peter use the illustration of Sarah and Abraham? How are the commands to wives an opportunity for wives to reflect the submission of Jesus? List the commands to husbands. Why do you think Peter commands husbands to live with their wives in an “understanding” way? How are the commands to husbands an opportunity for husbands to reflect the submission of Jesus? What would you expect to see in a marriage built on mutual submission and understanding?

Living It Out: How does your personal definition of submission line up with the biblical definition of submission? Does that cause you any tension? If you read this passage at work during lunch, how would people react? Whether you are married or not, what qualities here would you like to build into your life? Why? Questions for married couples: Are we partners or competitors? Are we helping each other follow Jesus more closely? Are we depending on the externals or the eternal? The artificial or the real? Do we understand each other better? Are we sensitive to each other’s feelings and ideas, or taking each other for granted? Are we seeing God answer our prayers?

MEMORY VERSES

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, *1 Peter 1:3-4*

²²Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.
1 Peter 1:22

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. *1 Peter 2:9*

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." ¹⁵But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, *1 Peter 3:14-15*

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. *1 Peter 4:12-13*

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. *1 Peter 5:6-8*