

# Discovery Group - Gospel Living

## (13) Godly Marriage

### **A**ccountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

### **B**ible: 1 Peter 3:1-7

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What do we learn from this passage about marriage?
- How can a wife show the inner quality of submission?  
How can a husband show the inner quality of respect?

### **C**ommit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

*Abide*: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

- Ephesians 5:21-6:9
- Colossians 3:18-4:1
- 1 Peter 3:1-7

## Godly Marriage

God's Word instructs us on how our marriages can reflect God's own nature to the world. Peter begins, "*Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands...*" Let's break down the purpose and meaning of this command with a few thoughts.

- (1) Peter tells wives to submit *in the same way*. The same way as what? Looking back in chapter 2, we see that Peter is referring to Jesus. Wives are told to follow the example of Jesus in submission. This clearly means that their submission is not due to being of less worth or of less ability or anything like that. Jesus clearly is not less than. Following Jesus' example also means that the submission is sacrificial. It is a willing sacrifice made by the wife for the good of the family - and ultimately for the good of God's Kingdom.
- (2) This submission has a purpose. In our passage, the purpose is to win the lost to Jesus - specifically a husband who is not a believer. We could safely broaden this purpose to include being a witness to people in general, not only an unbelieving spouse. Submission is a trait of Jesus, as seen above. Thus, the submission of the wife to the husband reveals an essential quality of Jesus to the world.

Peter exhorts wives to cultivate inner beauty more than outward. This inner beauty is described as a *gentle and quiet spirit*. This is a person who is not easily upset, is not harsh, does not insist on her own way. One who is humble and does not seek to draw attention to herself.

Husbands are instructed to be considerate of their wives and to treat them with respect as the weaker partner. Weaker likely refers in general to a husband's physical strength and perhaps even to the power he had in the relationship, especially in that day. In any case, he is not to take advantage of this for personal ends. He is to not abuse power. Instead, he is to respect his wife. Physical or political weakness does not make her less than or incapable. After all, she too has received the gift of life from Jesus. If the husband does not respect his wife, Peter warns that his prayers will be hindered. God will not respect him.

To both husbands and wives, Peter is getting at something beyond outward shows. Not just submission, but in gentleness and quiet. Not just being considerate, but actually respecting.