

TITLE: "Winning a Wayward Husband" (Part 4)

PASSAGE: 1 Peter 3:4

THEME: *Winning a wayward husband*

NUMBER: 09071PE3.4(67)

DATE: September 30, 2007

Read Passage – my translation

I'd really hoped to get through the entirety of this text today. But that's not going to happen. I anticipate rather than t/solid 1 hour that I would need to get thru vv. 4-6, we'll be looking more at 45 minutes this week & next.

This is part 4 of our excursion through 1 Peter 3:1-6

We've been looking at t/proper adornment for a godly woman & t/role that wives play in t/home, particularly as it relates to those wives w/unbelieving husbands.

We know that woman was an ideal companion for man

God created her as a helper, a companion. Story we're familiar w/from t/OT book of Genesis.

Book of Genesis tells us much about creation. Sometimes we get impatient w/what it doesn't tell us. Certainly, we all have questions we'd like answered, some extra details between t/verses.

I came across an apocryphal story that perhaps answers some of t/?s we have as it relates to the difficulties that exist in t/relationship between men & women, esp. as it relates to marriage.

Adam was walking around the Garden of Eden feeling very lonely, so God asked Adam, "What is wrong with you?" Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said he was going to give him a companion and it would be a woman. He said this person will cook for you and wash your clothes, she will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear you children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will freely give you love and compassion whenever needed. Adam asked God what would a woman like this cost him?? God said, "An arm and a leg." Adam said "What can I get for a just a rib??" The rest is history!

All joking aside . . . What we are looking at in this text ==>

I. Winning a Wayward Husband to the Word Without a Word (vv. 1-6)

Heart of the passage is in the first two verses ==>

In the same way, you wives be subject to your own husbands, so that if any [of them] are disobedient to the Word, they may be won without a word through the behavior of their wives, as they observe your pure behavior in fear [of God].

Wives winning wayward husbands to the Word without a word.

Main point is {cite} & under that are 2 sub points ==>

A. Be Subject to Him (1a)

B. Be An Example to Him (1b-6)

A. Be Subject to Him (1a)

Be submissive to his leadership & place of authority in the home.

In the same way, you wives . . .

Vocative of direct address. A call to believing wives.

. . . be subject (ὑποτασσω - present ptcp.) to your own husbands so that if any [of them] are disobedient to the Word, they may be won without a word through the behavior of their wives,

2 as they observe your pure behavior in fear [of God].

1. Peter is specifically addressing believing wives with unbelieving husbands

They are those who are characterized as being ==>

. . . disobedient to the Word . . .

a. Romans 2:8 talks about those who do not obey the truth

Word "obey" used there is $\pi\epsilon\iota\theta\omega$. Here in 1 Peter, the word is $\acute{\alpha}\pi\epsilon\iota\theta\epsilon\omega$. Takes t/word for obey ($\pi\epsilon\iota\theta\omega$) and adds what's called an "alpha privative" to it (Gk. alpha or letter a) which negates it.

(1) The alpha privative is a prefix that's like our "dis"

(I don't mean "dis" like don't be "dissin' me). Believe / Disbelieve. Obey / Disobey. Even in English we use t/Gk. alpha privative w/a few words such as "theist." To be a theist is to believe in a God. Add the alpha privative to it (a) you have an atheist.

Here we have husbands who are not obedient, they're not $\pi\epsilon\iota\theta\omega$. they're $\acute{\alpha}\pi\epsilon\iota\theta\epsilon\omega$. disobedient (specifically to the Word).

This is the abiding state that they are in. Not so much their practice, what they do, as it is their condition, what they are.

b. This was common in the first century as it even is today

Women typically outnumber men in t/CH. Recent studies have put t/number at over 60% in the US. Why I've said that men coming to t/faith & being active leaders in t/home & CH is 1 mark of true revival.

T/O history, there have been millions of wives with lost husbands; wives who have prayed & pleaded w/God to save them. Some have gone beyond prayer to manipulation, nagging, deal-making.

Some have even become disillusioned, bitter, and have either ceased trying or have left t/marriage altogether.

(1) That speaks to an even greater issue -

Fallacy that we have an intrinsic right to be happy w/all of our circumstances in life & if we're not we have every right to change them. Our contemp. culture oozes w/this, doesn't it? It's most evident when it comes to relationships & marriage.

If you're bored, unfulfilled, unhappy in your marriage, get out of it. Prince charming or princess lovely are just around t/corner. Tragic that this godless attitude is even found among those who would claim to be followers of JC.

(a) Remember we ended chapter 2 with a 9 part series on suffering?

We are slaves of the Suffering Servant who are to strive for satisfaction in our sufferings since He suffered for us.

We encounter suffering in lots of different ways – even in marriage!!!

I have several books in my office that I keep simply because t/titles are indicative of a greater point (often foolishness on t/part of t/author) - such as 88 reasons why t/Rapture will be in 1988. "Gorbachov: Has t/real A.C. come?" Perhaps my favorite is a book on marriage: "How to be happy, though married."

Marriage is a good thing; God ordained it; he blessed it. But I don't know of anyone who has "the ideal marriage." There are ups and downs & some marriages have more downs than ups.

It is a lie of first order to believe that you have an inalienable right to a perfect marriage. Even a marriage that U like or are satisfied with! What a lie! If you're not happy in your marriage get out of it.

How many Christians get divorced, not for any biblical reason of which there are few, but simply because they aren't happy or they "fell out of love." If you do that you are in sin. If you do that and remarry you have committed adultery & God calls you to repent.

Maybe you had friends warn you not to marry so and so because he's not a believer, but you went ahead and did it anyway. Now you want out because he acts like an unbeliever. What a surprise!

B4 God - you don't have that option, not as long as he desires to remain married (1 Cor. 7:13). As the saying goes, it is better to die in the will of God than live outside of it. God uses even the suffering of a less than perfect marriage to hone us into His image.

That doesn't mean you don't work hard for a better marriage, that you don't pray. It does mean that as long as things remain the same you find contentment in JC; he's the only place real contentment can be found anyway.

I. Winning a Wayward Husband to the Word Without a Word

As a believer in JC, here are your options ==>

A. *Be Subject to Him (1a)*

B. *Be An Example to Him (1b-6)*

Being subject or submissive is part of being an example.

We've spent more of our time under that second point {cite}. Be Subject was something we looked at in t/first half of v. 1. Be an Example runs from t/2d half of v. 1 to t/end of v. 6.

We divided point B (be an example to him) into three sub-points.

1. *Focus on your Behavior (1b-2)*

... **as they** [the disobedient husbands of v. 1] **observe your pure behavior in fear [of God].**

Last week==>

2. *Forsake the Fashion Show (3-4)*

And do not let your adornment be [simply] external– braiding the hair and wearing gold– or the wearing of dresses.

a. *This is a warning against bad or misguided priorities*

T/emphasis of t/external over that of t/internal. A preoccupation w/clothes, jewelry, makeup.

And do not let your adornment be [simply or merely] external . . .

b. Here's the other half of the question (Verse 4) ==>

But [αλλος] [let it be] the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable nature of a gentle and quiet spirit which is precious in God's sight.

Don't be over-occupied w/external to t/neglect of t/internal. Be focused on your heart, your behavior. That's especially true as it relates to a Christian wife w/an unsaved husband.

c. Forsake the fashion show & focus on t/jewels of the heart

(1) Here Peter calls it ==>

. . . the hidden person of the heart . . .

Lit. "The hidden ανθρωπος - the hidden man of the heart. The heart, of course, is the seat of emotion & will or character that sets us apart from t/animal creation. It's part of what it means to be created in God's image.

While all men have this attribute of the heart, only regenerate men have a cleansed heart or a new heart.

(a) Everyone is born with a sinful, depraved heart

GEN 6:5 (speaking of the antediluvian race) **Then the \Lord\ saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

GEN 8:21 (after the great flood) God declares ==> **"I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth . . .**

Paul, in Eph. 4:18, refers to the "darkened understanding," of those w/o X, those who are "excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;"

(b) When a person is born-again or regenerated by the Spirit of God he or she receives a new heart

The nature of the New Covt. ==>

EZE 36:26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

Here, the idea of ==>

... **the hidden person [or man] of the heart** ...

i. Parallel to Paul's reference to the "new man" in contrast with the "old"

4:22-24 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man;

2. Forsake the Fashion Show (3-4)

And do not let your adornment be [simply] external– braiding the hair and wearing gold– or the wearing of dresses. But [let it be] the hidden person of the heart ...

So t/assumption is that t/woman has a new heart w/which to adorn herself.

(2) This is a relevant question

Make your calling & election sure. Be certain that you are indeed in t/faith. See 1:6

Women: If you get disillusioned w/your husband; file for divorce & run off w/the UPS man, you need to be confronted w/the reality of your spiritual condition. You can't adorn yourself w/that which you don't possess.

Adorn yourself w/the hidden person of a new heart that beats w/the grace and power of JC. So imp.

(3) Note how this hidden person of the heart, this inward adornment that is precious in God's sight, is described==>
... with the imperishable nature of a gentle and quiet spirit ...

(a) Catch the contrast

{contrast v. 3 with 4}

i. Beauty quickly fades

All t/externals of appearance; wealth; power are as a vapor. It doesn't last; it's temporal, not eternal & we who live in light of t/eternal are to focus on that which lasts.

ii. Modern technology gives us some powerful illustrations of how fleeting external beauty really is

A couple of weeks ago the 1933 classic movie, King Kong, was on TV. Faye Wray, t/leading woman who played Ann Darrow in t/leading woman, was 25 years old when t/movie was made.

She truly was a beautiful woman. Stunningly beautiful. I remember when she died 3 years ago, seeing pictures of her. She looked nothing like she did in the movie. She was 97 years old!

Striking to me. I think of this when I'm at someone's home who is elderly & they have pictures on the walls of what they looked like back in 1935' or 1942'. Or you go to a nursing home or retirement center & you see men and women in their 80s and 90s & ponder that they were once as you are.

Don't misunderstand, there are older men & women that look great, but what do we say, "they look great for their what?" Age. We say that because we know that age robs everyone of strength and beauty. Consequence of t/fall.

iii. Men or women==>

Nobody says you should look like an unmade bed. But the outward man will decay. You can't fight it.

Something important for young couples to remember when they are preparing to get married. You don't want your infatuation centered on outward appearances.

By t/time you hit your 30s or 40s that nice physique is going to slump like the Buffalo Bills!

Some of you want a reminder of that check out the wedding pictures that have been posted downstairs of some of our members.

iv. Age progression software

That's amazing technology! I'm always fascinated when they take some 30 year old and frame by frame in the matter of 10 seconds they show you what that person will likely look like at 80. Scary.

There's a reason that age progression software isn't available for popular use! I think it would be great to have for marriage counseling! Ready to get married? Here, Jane, let me show you what John is going to look like at your 25 year anniversary!

Women (and men) look good. Take care of yourself. Exercise. Practice good hygiene. Wear nice dresses & a little make up (women, not men). But don't let that be your main preoccupation. The outward stuff has no enduring, eternal qualities. The beauty of godliness does.

Proverbs 11:22 *As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, So is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.*

I. Winning a Wayward Husband to the Word Without a Word

A. Be Subject to Him (1a)

B. Be An Example to Him (1b-6)

1. Focus on your Behavior (1b-2)

2. Forsake the Fashion Show (3-4)

And do not let your adornment be [simply] external– braiding the hair and wearing gold– or the wearing of dresses. But [let it be] the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable nature of a gentle and quiet spirit . . .

(4) Note the two adjectives in v. 4

(a) "Gentle" (πραυς) - gentleness, meekness

Used as an adjective, word only occurs 3 other times in NT, 2x referring to X. The word means, "not insistent on one's own rights," or "not pushy, not selfishly assertive," "not demanding one's own way." [Grudem, 140]

Jesus said (SOM) that demonstrating such a spirit is to be blessed ==>
Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth."

According to Gal. 5:23 - gentleness is a fruit of God's H.S. & thus it is to characterize t/believer who walks by the Spirit and not the flesh.

(b) Second adjective (ἡσυχίος) "quiet"

Only used here and in 1 Tim. 2:2 where we are exhorted to pray for our political leaders so that we in t/CH might lead tranquil and quiet lives.

(5) Both of these words should bring you back to v. 1

In the same way, you wives, be subject to your own husbands so that if any [of them] are disobedient to the Word, they may be won without a word through the behavior of their wives,

What kind of behavior? ==>

And do not let your adornment be [simply] external– braiding the hair and wearing gold– or the wearing of dresses. But [let it be] the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable nature of a gentle and quiet spirit . . .

(5) Note the end of the verse

. . . which is precious in God's sight.

(a) "What's precious in God's sight?" Grammatically, the connection is to all of verse 4==>

the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable nature of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in God's sight.

It's precious. God is pleased. He's pleased when you bear up under sorrows when suffering unjustly (2:19). He's pleased when you suffer for doing right and patiently endure under suffering (2:20). No doubt some of these women were doing just that. Suffering under the pressure of disobedient husbands & patiently enduring the hostility.

(b) In God's sight that is precious

Here's a word that means, expensive, costly, precious in the sense of valuable. Here's a word that's used in Mark 14:3 ==>

Mark 14:3 **And while he was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster cruse of ointment of pure nard very costly; and she brake the cruse, and poured it over his head.**

Genuine, saving faith is "precious" - 1:7

Christ's blood is "precious" - 1:19

Christ as the living stone is "precious" 2:4,6

The blessings of salvation are "precious" - 2:7

The promises of God are "precious" 2 Peter 1:4

It's not always easy to walk by faith and not by sight

True for us all. In a unique sense, for godly women who live w/and pray for lost husbands. Trust him w/your life // husband's life.

God delights in being trusted

He finds joy in seeing his children place their trust, their faith in Him and Him alone. Living in faith and faithfulness is an offering, a sweet aroma to Him in whom dwells all sweetness.

" . . . the children of God [add: women of God] love the centrality of God in the gospel. They love to say with Paul, 'From h im and through him and to him are all things; to him be the glory forever and ever'. They love to make their boast only in the Lord. They love to say that God is the beginning and middle and end in the affair of salvation. They love to say they were chosen for the glory of his grace, and called from darkness to light to declare the wonders of his grace, and justified because Christ died to vindicate the holiness of God's grace, and will one day be swallowed up in life, and glory." [John Piper, The Pleasures of God]

Trust Him and live your life in the delight of him & in those things He sees as precious.

How can a wife win a wayward husband to the Word without a word?

1. Focus on your Behavior (1b-2)

Not words == behavior

2. Forsake the Fashion Show (3-4)

Not outward adornment ==> behavior

3. Follow in Sarah's Example (5-6)