



"Winning a Wayward Husband" (Part 3)

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1 Peter 3:3



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, **2** as they observe your pure behavior in fear [of God]. **3** And do not let your adornment be [simply] external— braiding the hair and wearing gold— or the wearing of dresses. **4** But [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. **5** For in this way in former

times the holy women whose hope was in God used to adorn themselves by submitting to their own husbands. **6** Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

— 1 Peter 3:1-6, As translated from the Greek New Testament by T. Bartolucci.

Introduction: Clarification Regarding Queen Esther . . .

"Wives are to win wayward husbands to the Word without a word."

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

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

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

1. Focus on your behavior

2. Forsake the Fashion Show (3-4)

a. This is a warning against misguided priorities

(1) Word "adornment" is the word *kosmos* (κοσμος) - Common NT word for:

b. Compare 1 Timothy 2:9-10 . . .

c. Peter's reference to "braiding the hair and wearing gold" parallels what we see in 1 Timothy 2:9

d. "Dresses" (v. 3) translates the Greek noun *himatian* (ἱματίον)

e. In Peter's day exhortations toward modesty were quite common

"There is nothing that a woman will not permit herself to do, nothing that she deems shameful, when she encircles her neck with green emeralds and fastens pearls to her elongated ears; there is nothing more intolerable than a wealthy woman." [Juvenal, Satires, 6.457-60]

"So important is the business of beautification; so numerous are the tiers and storeys piled one upon another on her head." [Juvenal, Satires, 4.503-3]

"Meanwhile, she ridiculously puffs out and disfigures her face with lumps of dough . . ." [Juvenal, Satires, 6.457-65]

". . . luxurious apparel fails to adorn the body, and only reveals the sordidness of the mind." [Quintilian]

"Immediately after they are fourteen women are called 'ladies' by men. And so, when they see that they have nothing else than to be bedfellows of men, they begin to beautify themselves and put all their hopes on that. It is, therefore, worthwhile for us to take pains to make them understand that they are honored for nothing else by only for appearing modest and self-respecting." [Epictētus, the philosopher]

f. Note that the emphasis of verses 3-4 falls on verse 4

Conclusion