

I Peter 3:1-7

The Beauty of Marriage

> What command is given to wives in verse 1? Be submissive to your own husband – allow him to lead as God has directed him to lead.

> How does Peter describe the true beauty of a godly wife (vv. 3-4)? It's not in outward appearance (jewelry, clothes, etc.). Rather, it's in the inward beauty, in a gentle and quiet spirit.

> What characteristics should describe how a husband lives with his wife (v. 7)? With understanding, giving honor to the wife.

Application

Marriage is a beautiful thing, but in order for it to function as God intends, it requires two people fulfilling their given roles. Marriage may, or may not, be on your radar right now, but if it is not, be assured that one day it will be! You may have high hopes and dreams about how great your future mate will be, but have you considered how well *you* meet the qualities needed to be a godly marriage partner some day?

- Girls: Are you submissive to those God calls you to be submissive to? Does your conduct display a true love for Jesus? Are you focused on true beauty, based on a gentle spirit and purity of life?
- Guys: Are you compassionate towards people? Do you love people with a Christ-like love? Do you honor and treasure those close to you?

Take a woman who will allow and encourage her husband to lead in the home and match her with a man who knows how to demonstrate compassion and love, and you will have a couple who is on the road to a successful marriage. Our lives today determine if we are on the road to being a successful spouse! Taking these qualities seriously will prepare us to be the marriage partner God will want us to be one day!

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