

## The Wife in 1 Peter 3:1-6

That a husband has authority given by God is offensive to some. It is usually an improper understanding of God's truth that causes the confusion. Jesus said ***"I and the Father are one"***, teaching that He is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father (John 10:30). He also said ***"The Father is greater than I"***, teaching that there were roles being exercised in relation to man (John 14:28). If the Eternal Son can submit to the Father, certainly man can submit to one another and a wife can submit to her husband in obedience to God.

Obviously, submission doesn't have anything to do with one being better than another, it is designed by God as a role to provide order and direction. The Father is not "better, smarter or more qualified" than the Son and the husband is not "better, smarter or more qualified" than the wife. Order is established in the home by divinely ordaining the man who was created first to have the priority of position; to have the authority (1 Tim 2:13). It is by "birth", not by "merit".

Authority is viewed as an unpleasant concept today. We live in a time of rebellion that would occur in the last days (2Timothy 3:1-5). It is interesting that Jesus compared the understanding of living under authority as equal to having faith (Matthew 8:9-10). However, authority rightly understood is not only necessary, but desired when exercised by those who are accountable to God. God has absolute authority over man, thankfully He exercises it in love. This is the lesson a man needs to learn in exercising the position he has with his wife.

Authority is always established for the safety, care and benefit of those under that authority. In Proverbs 29:2 it says ***"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked are ruling, the people mourn"***. This verse is true whether it is speaking of government or of the home. The Bible teaches "servant leadership" (Mark 10:42-45), and any man who does not lead his home with the attitude that Jesus commands will bare the responsibilities of his own guilt before God (Luke 17:1-2). Peter warns the man of taking advantage of his appointed position in 1Peter 3:7. Peter lets the husband know that if he does not love his wife properly, his prayers are of no effect, they are useless, or ***"cut off"*** from God. God will not hear the prayer of a man that takes what God has provided him by grace and abuses it to his own ends. Proverbs 26 :12 says ***"Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him."*** The man that treats his wife without love and respect, who thinks he can play with the authority and position God has provided for him has less hope than a fool. To be arrogant before God is always short lived. Remember, you wife is an ***"heir of the grace of life"***. She stands on equal ground with you before God.

Authority and submission do not have to become an issue if a husband and wife are walking in a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. The Bible is given for our correction (2Timothy 3:16-17) so that we may not fall aside from the path that God has designed for us to take, both for our good and His glory. (Amos 3:3).

God's intention for man is that he be the provider, protector and servant to his wife. Ideally, a wife should enjoy the spiritual leadership of her husband. His guidance should give her a great comfort and rest. A husband should afford his wife the opportunity to be that which God has uniquely created her to be. A wife needs to respect and support her husband and afford him the opportunity to grow and develop as the spiritual leader. This means making mistakes along the way, both in leading and following. A wife adds the perfect blend to her husband, who is incomplete without her (Genesis 2:18). Hence, the two becoming one.

**The bottom line for wives:** Man isn't given authority because he deserves it, but by virtue of his position. Therefore, his wife needs to respect his position, even if he is not living according to the word (verse 1). Peter is emphasizing that a wife can trust God with all the other areas of life, including that of her husband. Remember, your husband is created in God's image before he was married to you. God will ultimately have His way. Peter is concerned that wives don't get in the way of God's attempt to get your husbands attention. If all a husband hears is his wife nagging and threatening, his attention is taken up so he can't hear God. Allow God to do the work in your husband. It's really the only chance of true change that can be made in your husband. If he doesn't walk with God now, do you really think your going to convince him to by badgering? Your best chance is to trust the Lord and not fall to fear and terror. Don't try and do God's job, He's much better at it than you.

## **The WIFE in 1 Peter 3**

**Read 1 Peter 2:13-3:6.** This section begins in Chapter 2 and gives the context to that which Peter is discussing in his epistle as a theme . . . dealing with trials and suffering God's way.

God has a particular design for marriage, but unfortunately it is not always fulfilled. It is in times like this that we need to know we are obeying God's word. It can be challenging to obey God in the best of circumstances, therefore we need even further assurance when in very difficult situations. We need to know what God wants us to do. James tells us to ask for wisdom and God will give it (James 1:2-8). It is only by being obedient to the word of God that we can have the assurance that we are in His will, no matter how the circumstances seem to dictate the opposite (1 Peter 1:6-7, 4:12-13).

**What does God expect of you when your husband is living in disobedience to God (vs. 1,2)?**

**Do you think your husband is living in obedience to God at this time? If not, why?**

**How does God want you to attract your husband (vs. 3,4)?**

**What was Sarah's attitude toward Abraham (vs. 5,6)?**

**What kind of lifestyle shows that you are following in Sarah's footsteps?**

**Are you treating your husband in the manner God requires? If not, why?**