

## **1 PETER 3:1-7**

### **HOW TO SUCCEED IN MARRIAGE**

You hear them all the time: marriage jokes. For instance,

*You Know you are Addicted to the Internet When, among other things . . .*

Your wife drapes a blond wig over your monitor to remind you of what she looks like . . .

Your wife says communication is important in a marriage... so you buy another computer and install a second phone line so the two of you can chat.

Or this one: A man was walking along a California beach and stumbled across an old lamp. He picked it up and rubbed it and out popped a genie. The genie said, *"I'm not your run of the mill genie. I'm very busy with my consulting business and only have time to grant you one wish. So make it snappy!"*

The man thought about it for a moment and then said, *"I've always wanted to go to Hawaii but I'm scared to fly and I get very seasick. Could you build me a bridge to Hawaii so I could drive over there.?"*

The genie laughed and said, *"No way! Think of the logistics of that! How would the supports ever reach the bottom of the Pacific Ocean? Think of how much concrete...how much steel!! No, you'll have to think of another wish."*

The man said OK and after thinking for another moment or two said, *"My wife always says that I don't care about her and that I'm insensitive. So, I wish that I could understand women.... know how they feel inside and what they're thinking when they give me the silent treatment.... know why they cry, know what they really want when they say, 'nothing'.... know how to make them truly happy...."*

The genie then asked, *"Do you want that bridge to have two lanes or four?"*

And here's a story that's a bit more related to today's message: A man was having a bit of marital tension in his household and was trying to figure out just what to do about it. So he talked it over with a friend. In the course of the conversation, the friend happened to mention to him that: *"You know, quite often God speaks to us through our wives."*

The man looked at his friend kind-a funny and said, *"Wow! I didn't know God used that kind of language!"*

Why is marriage such a brunt of humor? There are many reasons, including the so-called “*war between the sexes*.” But one important explanation is that many people are disillusioned with marriage. They went into it with great expectations and high hopes only to be bitterly disappointed. So they tell jokes as a way of covering up their hurt and pain. But God has much to tell us in the Bible about marriage, especially how to have a successful one. Today’s passage in 1 Peter is one of the sections on this subject.

First Peter 3:1-7 continues the discussion regarding submission, also referred to as respect in some translations. Note that Peter begins verses 1 and 7 with the words, “*in the same way*,” which refer back to his discussion in chapter 2 of how to relate to governmental authority and to employers. If you recall, we emphasized that we are to respect the office of such persons even if we cannot respect the individual holding that office.

Let’s begin with a clear understanding so that I don’t get in trouble from the outset. The submission of a wife to her husband does not suggest inequality, for Christ was submissive to and yet equal with the Father. Submission does not mean domination or control of one human being over another (because only God the Holy Spirit is to control any believer), nor does submission permit physical or emotional abuse of any kind. If any such behavior is present in the relationship, these principles we’re about to study will not apply. Rather, in marriage there is to be a mutual submission of husband and wife. And if we continue with the comparison with Christ and the Father, we see that they had equality and unity in their relationship (John 17:22). When a man loves and treasures a woman according to God’s standards and a woman respects her husband openly and deeply as God directs, then both will experience the oneness and the happiness they desire in marriage.

As we consider this passage today, we have to understand the cultural context here. Failure to consider this aspect has led in the past to serious misinterpretations and misunderstandings of the biblical teachings regarding marriage. In Peter’s day Christian women were often married to unbelieving husbands, and Peter stresses the importance of Christ-like behavior to win them to faith in Jesus. Marriage is then lifted to the highest rung on the ladder in verse 7 by the call to husbands to treat their wives with consideration and respect. This is expected because they have a shared faith and they are a praying partnership, and no misunderstandings or wrong behavior should get in the way of that partnership’s effectiveness. While in the beginning of the passage Peter addresses the needs of Christian wives married to unsaved husbands, Peter’s instruction at the end of the passage applies to Christian couples, here graphically described as sharing the inheritance of God’s gracious gift of eternal life.

We will also see in verse 7 that it’s the husbands’ turn to follow the pattern of submission as Peter again begins the verse with, “*in the same way*.” The bottom line of all seven verses is mutual understanding, submission, and respect between husband and wife. The husband submits to the requirements by meeting the wife’s needs. The point of husbands

and wives being equal before God in receiving honor is the underlying theme in these first seven verses. Note that the husband who fails to understand and honor his wife will have a hindered prayer life. What it means to have hindered prayers will be explained in 1 Peter 3:12, which we'll discuss next week. However, a man in a godly obedient relationship with his wife has the full attention of God in his prayers. God is against those who mistreat their wives in any way, and their prayers will not be heard. So let's begin by taking a closer look at:

1 Peter 3:1-4, NAS

*1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,  
2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.  
3 And let not your adornment be merely external-- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;  
4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.*

Peter is clearly coming out in support of wives as he did slaves back in chapter 2. The ancient world classified women and slaves together as inferior beings. Christianity gave dignity to the status of both and Peter, in verse 7, will emphasize the spiritual equality of man and wife as heirs together. Paul urges married couples to mutual submission, where the wife's submissiveness and respect is to be matched by the husband's love (Ephesians 5:21-28). Scripture teaches that men and women complement one another in the marriage relationship.

In a world where the domestic economy depended on the husband earning a living for the family, it was natural that the wife should look to him to make certain major decisions. Sarah's readiness to go with Abraham in obedience to God's call is an example of this kind of relationship. However, our task today is to interpret the principles laid down in Scripture for the times in which we live. And that means separating cultural norms from scriptural injunctions.

"*In the same way*" in verse 1 refers back to the passage on slaves (2:18-25). Like Judaism and other non-Roman religions, Christianity spread faster among wives than husbands; husbands had more to lose socially from conversion to an unpopular minority religion. Wives were expected to obey their husbands in Greco-Roman antiquity, and this obedience included allegiance to their husbands' religions. Cults that forbade their participation in Roman religious rites, including prohibiting worship of a family's household gods, were viewed with disdain, and Jewish or Christian women who refused to worship these gods could be charged with atheism. Thus by his advice, and this is very important to understand as we go forward, Peter seeks to reduce marital tensions and causes of hostility toward Christianity and Christians. Silence was considered a great virtue for women in the first century. "*Pure and reverent*" is the behavior that was most approved for women in that time.

In verse 1 Peter reminds Christian wives to be submissive to their husbands. For a clearer understanding of the word *submissive* as used in this verse, let's read it from the Amplified Bible:

1 Peter 1:1, Amplified Bible:

*IN LIKE manner, you married women, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them], so that even if any do not obey the Word [of God], they may be won over not by discussion but by the [godly] lives of their wives,*

Note that in the culture of the day there were no working wives as we have today and women were quite dependent on their husbands for income, food, and a roof over their heads. In a culture where men were considered dominant and women considered inferior, Peter was acknowledging that Christian women should not be revolutionaries and should adhere to the cultural expectations. Yet he was also telling them how to do it in a Christian way and he was teaching the biblical standard that men and women are equal in God's eyes.

Those who try to read hierarchy into this passage are mistakenly being influenced by a culture that continues to subordinate women. Christ did not establish hierarchy in the church, according to a paper written by Pastor Ron Teed. Since marriage is to be a model of the Church, and is often used as illustrating relationships within the Church, then we can infer that there is also to be no hierarchy in marriage. Indeed the scripture speaks rather of the unity that is to exist between husband and wife. They are to become "*one flesh*" and be one as God and Christ are one (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4, 5; John 17:21, 22). If they are one in a manner similar to how God and Christ are one, then they will function as a unit, not as a hierarchy or a top-down relationship.

This command in 1 Peter 3:1 does not require women to be subordinate to men in general but to their own husbands. Women, especially if they are married to a non-believer, are to be examples of godly behavior: gentle, soft-spoken (Proverbs 15:1), and pure (1 Peter 1:15, 16), living a life of integrity and love (John 14:34, 35; Titus 3:2), qualities all Christians are called to exhibit, including Christian men. But the powerful purity of a godly woman's life can soften even the hardest male heart without even speaking a word (Titus 2:5).

A woman who follows the direction of the Lord in this manner demonstrates a beauty that comes not from her appearance but from what she is on the inside. It is the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit (1 Timothy 2:9-11). Such an inner beauty means a great deal to God. While the world is impressed by costly and stylish clothing and jewelry, a woman with a gentle and quiet spirit is the woman who is precious to God.

Peter was not saying, however, that women should not wear jewelry and fine clothing, but that Christian wives should not think of outward decoration as the primary source of beauty. Roman women were captivated by the latest fashions of the day, as are women in

the United States today, and competed with each other in the ways they dressed and fixed their hair. It was not unusual for the women to have elaborate *hair dos*, studded with gold and silver combs and even jewels. They wore elaborate and expensive garments, all for the purpose of impressing each other.

A Christian wife with an unsaved husband might think that she must imitate the world if she is going to hang on to him; but just the opposite is true. Glamour is artificial and external; true beauty is real and internal. Glamour is something a woman can put on and take off, but true beauty is always there. Glamour is corruptible; it decays and fades. True beauty from the heart grows more wonderful as the years pass. A Christian woman who cultivates the beauty of the inner person will not have to depend on cheap externals.

Of course, this does not mean that a wife should neglect herself and dress only in dowdy clothing. It simply means that she is not to attempt to be a fashion plate just to keep up with the crowd; although much of today's so-called "*fashion*" looks sloppy and shows lots of skin and underwear, hardly the modesty that scripture talks about. Note that Peter did not forbid the wearing of jewelry any more than the wearing of attractive clothing. It is possible to wear jewelry and still honor God, and we must not judge one another in this matter. Any husband is proud of a wife who is attractive, but that beauty must come from the heart, not the store. We are not of this world, but we must not dress in a way that makes Heaven seem like a cheerless place. (Actually some of this also applies to men in today's world.) We are to be clean, modest, decent in our attire (1 Timothy 2:9, 10), and as attractive as our means allow. We are not to make our looks the main focus of concern, or spend money on clothes that we need for food, or to pay other bills.

God has designed this relationship between a husband and a wife because He knows that this is the best arrangement for a happy, fulfilling marriage. Submission does not mean that a wife is inferior to her husband. It means she shows him respect. In fact, in 1 Peter 3:7, Peter makes it clear that the husband and wife are "*equal partners*." The man and woman are made by the same Creator out of the same basic material, and both are made in God's image. God gave dominion to both Adam and Eve. Here is what Genesis 1:28 says: "*Then God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.'*" And in Jesus Christ Christian husbands and wives are one as Paul writes in Galatians 3:28: "*There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.*"

So in a good Christian marriage we see husbands and wives working together as a team. We see them each contributing their unique gifts to the marriage in order to make it stronger. We see that where one is weak the other may have a strength, and that they each benefit from the contributions of the other with a humble attitude. In a healthy Christian marriage competition is missing and cooperation is the prevailing mind-set. There is the spirit of mutual submission and attentiveness to each other's ideas. We see them restoring the unity that was lost when Adam and Eve sinned, so that a Christian couple following God's plan will have the oneness that enables them to function as a unit.

Submission has to do with respect and unity, not with control.

For example, the slaves in the average Roman household were superior in many ways to their masters, but they still had to respect authority. The co-pilot may be a lot smarter than the pilot of a 747 but he's still the co-pilot, and in order to provide the maximum safety for the passengers, he respects the ultimate authority of the pilot. You may be a lot smarter than your boss, but in order for the company to function as productively as possible and for you to have a good relationship with him or her, it's best you respect the position he or she has been given. Even Christ Himself became a servant and submitted to God's will.

There is nothing degrading about submitting to one another or accepting God's order. If anything, it is the first step toward fulfillment. Husbands and wives must be partners, not competitors. And they can't be partners if one always dominates.

Submission is an opportunity to win an unsaved husband to Christ. God not only commands submission, but He uses it as a powerful spiritual influence in a home. This does not mean that a Christian wife "gives in" to her unsaved husband in order to manipulate him and get him to do what she desires. This kind of selfish persuasion ought never to be found in a Christian's heart or home. In fact, these Christian women to whom Peter is writing were deliberately disobeying their husbands by worshipping a God whom the husband did not worship. So Peter was telling them that in other ways they could be gentle and cooperative and thereby convince their husbands they still loved and respected them. Such behavior could then bring those husbands to Christ.

"Without any words" in verse 1 means without speaking. Christian wives who preach at their husbands only drive them farther from the Lord. I remember hearing of one wife who used to keep religious radio programs on all evening, usually very loud, so that her unsaved husband would hear the truth. She only made it easier for him to go out and spend his evenings at the bar.

It is the character and conduct of a wife that will win over the unsaved husband, not arguments. But rather by demonstrating such attitudes as submission, understanding, love, kindness, and patience. These qualities, by the way, are not developed by a wife from her own will and strength. They are the fruit of the Spirit that comes when people are submitted to Christ and to one another.

One of the finest examples of a godly wife and mother throughout Church history is Monica, the mother of St. Augustine. God used Monica's witness and prayers to win both her son and her husband to Christ, though her husband was not converted until shortly before his death. Both the husband and the son lived pretty wild lives. Augustine wrote in his *Confessions*: "*she served him as her lord; and did her diligence to win him unto Thee . . . preaching Thee unto him by her [behavior]; by which Thou ornamentest her, making her reverently amiable unto her husband.*"

In a Christian home everyone needs to minister to and submit to each other. A Christian husband must minister to his wife and show the love of Christ to her. A Christian wife should encourage her husband and help him grow strong in the Lord. In addition, parents and children must share responsibilities as well as blessings and seek to maintain an atmosphere of godly excitement and growth in the home. If any members of the family are unsaved, they will be won to Christ more by what they see in the lives and relationships of one another rather than by what is said.

1 Peter 3:5, 6 NLT:

*5 This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.*

*6 For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do.*

Peter closes this section by pointing to Sarah as an example of a godly submissive wife (Genesis 18). The believing wife who submits to Christ and who cultivates a meek and quiet spirit will make an important impact on her husband. A parallel today to the situation Peter was addressing here in 1 Peter 3:1-6 is a Muslim woman who receives Christ as Savior even though some Muslims threaten death to members who become Christians. The promise is that a woman can trust Christ with her life as well as with her soul.

Examples of holy women in the Old Testament support Peter's statement. Purity of life (verse 2) and a submissive spirit (verse 5) have always been a godly woman's lasting source of beauty and attractiveness. Peter chooses Sarah as a specific example of a woman who was submissive to her husband. She obeyed Abraham and called him her master. That is she recognized him as the leader and head of their household because that is what her culture expected (Genesis 18:12). Like other holy women of the past, Sarah put her hope in God. This kind of conduct gives women the spiritual heritage of Sarah. Peter says to the women in his audience, "*You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear of being murdered for your faith.*" This is instruction for a woman coming out of a heathen religion and whose husband is still in that heathen religion. In no way is this to be construed as instruction to stay with an abusive husband or with one who deliberately and consistently disobeys God's Word, as other scriptures confirm.

It is interesting that in Genesis 18:12 the word "*husband*" can also mean "*lord*" or "*master*."<sup>1</sup> I believe this confirms that the interpretation of these verses in no way suggests that a woman is to be dominated and controlled by a power freak of a husband. The word "*master*" in that culture could have simply carried a meaning we would interpret as "*husband*" today. The love and submission called for by both the wife and the husband is the same kind of love and submission they are called to have for Christ,

<sup>1</sup> Carson, D. A.: New Bible Commentary : 21st Century Edition. 4th ed. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA : Inter-Varsity Press, 1994, S. 1 Pe 3:1

and that Christ had for His Father. If a husband loves his wife according to Jesus' commands, she is going to be as happy as she can be. And if a wife loves and respects her husband according to Jesus' commands, he's going to be doing back flips every day. We would suggest all married couples give it a try for 30 days and see what happens.

1 Peter 3:7 NLT:

*7 In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with **understanding** as you **live together**. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.*

Why did Peter devote more space to instructing the wives than the husbands? Because the Christian wives were experiencing a whole new situation and needed more guidance. In general, women were considered inferior in the Roman Empire, and their new freedom in Christ created new problems and challenges. Furthermore, many of them had unsaved husbands and needed added encouragement and instruction.

As Peter wrote to the Christian husbands, he reminded them of four areas of responsibility in their relationship with their wives:

**1) Understanding** - Somebody once asked Mrs. Albert Einstein if she understood Dr. Einstein's theory of relativity, and she replied, "*No, but I understand Dr. Einstein.*" I've heard a story about a pastor who said that when he did premarital counseling for couples planning to be married, he often gave the couple pads of paper and asked them to write down the three things each one thought the other enjoyed doing the most. Usually the prospective bride made her list immediately; and the man would sit and think about it. More often than not the woman was right and the man was wrong. What a beginning for a marriage.

It is amazing that two married people can live together and not really know each other. Ignorance is dangerous in any area of life, but it is especially dangerous in marriage. A Christian husband needs to know his wife's moods, feelings, needs, fears, and hopes, and not to make fun of them. He needs to listen with his heart and share meaningful communication with her. There must be in the home such a protective atmosphere of love and submission that the husband and wife can disagree and still be happy together.

*"Speaking the truth in love" is the solution to the communications problem according to Ephesians 4:15 NLT: "Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church."*

It has been said that love without truth is hypocrisy, and truth without love is brutality. We need both truth and love if we are to grow in our understanding of one another. How can a husband show consideration for his wife if he does not understand her needs or problems? To say, "*I never knew you felt that way,*" is to confess that, at some point, one partner did not listen to the other. When either partner is afraid to be open and honest



about a matter, then he or she is building walls and not bridges and the spouse has not made it safe for him or her to say what's really in their heart and mind.

**2) Living Together** – This implies much more than sharing the same address. Marriage is very much a physical relationship. According to the scriptures “*The two shall be one flesh.*”<sup>2</sup> Of course, Christian couples also enjoy a deeper spiritual relationship, but the two go together as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 NLT:

*1 Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to live a celibate life.*

*2 But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband.*

*3 The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs.*

*4 The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband also gives authority over his body to his wife.*

*5 Do not deprive each other of sexual relations unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time, so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

This passage clearly spells out the mutual submission that is essential in marriage, not only in the physical relationship but in all aspects. While it is not wrong for a wife to have a job or career in our culture today, her first responsibility is to care for the home according to Titus 2:4, 5 NLT: “*These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God.*” It is the husband who should provide, according to 1 Timothy 5:8 NLT:

*“But if someone does not provide for his own, especially his own family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”*

A husband who is genuinely walking with Jesus will fulfill his marital duties and love his wife. The husband must make time to be home with his wife. Christian pastors and Christian leaders who get too busy running around solving other people's problems, as well as businessmen who spend too much time at the office or off on business trips, may end up creating problems of their own at home. One survey has revealed that the average husband and wife had thirty-seven minutes a week together in actual communication. That's slightly over five minutes a day! Is it any wonder that marriages fall apart after the children grow up and leave home? The husband and wife are left alone to live with strangers.

**3) Honor Your wife** - Chivalry may be dead, but every husband had better be a “*knight in*

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; Ephesians 5:31.

*shining armor*” who treats his wife like a queen. Peter did not suggest that a wife is *“the weaker vessel”* mentally, morally, or spiritually, but only physically. There are exceptions, of course, but generally speaking, the man is the stronger of the two when it comes to physical accomplishments. The husband should treat his wife like an expensive, beautiful, fragile vase, in which there is a valuable treasure. I wish I could say that I do that all the time.

When a young couple starts dating, the young man is usually courteous and thoughtful. After they get engaged, he may show even more courtesy and almost always act like a gentleman. Sad to say, soon after they get married, many a husband forgets to be kind and gentlemanly and starts taking his wife for granted. He forgets that happiness in a home is made up of many little things, including the small courtesies of life.

Big resentments often grow out of small hurts. Husbands and wives need to be honest with each other, admit hurts, and seek forgiveness and healing. *“Giving honor to one’s wife”* does not mean *“giving in to the wife.”* A husband can disagree with his wife and still respect and honor her. A spiritual, godly couple will pray together for God to give them the same mind regarding decisions that must be made. Amos 3:3 NKJ states, *“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”* Over time a Christian couple can learn to come to a point of having one mind, God’s mind, and of having unity in their decisions. When we (Ron and Betty) got married, the pastor doing our premarital counseling told us to keep in mind a traffic light. When it came to making a decision, if either one of us saw a red or yellow light we should hold off on making the decision and continue in prayer about it. A decision should only be made and acted on when we both sensed a green light from the Lord or when the Lord had given us the same leading and ideas. That illustrates one aspect of the unity that should exist between husband and wife and *“that a cord of three strands is not easily broken”* (Ecclesiastes 4:12). The three strands in the cord are, of course, God, the husband, and the wife.

Giving honor means that the husband respects his wife’s feelings, thinking, and desires. He may not agree with her ideas, but he respects them. Often God balances a marriage so that the husband needs what the wife has in her personality, and she likewise needs his good qualities. An impulsive husband often has a patient wife, and this helps to keep him out of trouble, sometimes.

The husband may be the *thermostat* in the home, setting the emotional and spiritual temperature. The wife often is the *thermometer*, letting him know what the temperature is. Both are necessary.

The husband who is sensitive to his wife’s feelings will not only make her happy, but will also grow himself and help his children live in a home that honors God.

#### 4) So that a husband’s prayers will not be hindered

Peter assumed that husbands and wives would pray together. Often, they do not; and this is the reason for so much failure and unhappiness. If unsaved people can have happy homes without prayer, and they do, how much happier Christian homes would be with prayer. In fact, it is the prayer life of a couple that indicates how things are going in the home. If something is wrong, their prayers will be hindered. A husband and wife need to have their own private, individual prayer time each day. They also need to pray together and to have a time of family devotion.

How this is organized will change from home to home and even from time to time as the children grow up and schedules change. The Word of God and prayer are basic to a happy, godly home (Acts 6:4).

A husband and wife are *'heirs together.'* If both the husband and the wife submit to each other and have consideration for each other, and if both submit to Christ and follow His example, then they will have an enriching experience in their marriage. If not, they will miss God's best and rob each other of blessing and growth. It might be good if husbands and wives occasionally took inventory of their marriages. Here are some questions, based on what Peter wrote:

1. Are we partners or competitors?
2. Are we helping each other become more spiritual?
3. Are we depending on the externals or the eternals? The artificial or the real?
4. Do we understand each other better with each passing year?
5. Do we feel safe with each other? Do we each try to provide an environment of safety for the other?
6. Are we sensitive to each other's feelings and ideas, or do we take each other for granted?
7. Are we seeing God answer our prayers?
8. Are we enriched because of our marriage, or are we robbing each other of God's blessing?

Honest answers to these questions might make a difference! <sup>3</sup>A husband who fails to recognize his wife's spiritual equality jeopardizes his own prayers, for the reason Peter gives in 1 Peter 3:12.<sup>4</sup>

Marriage requires a great deal of work and effort on the part of both husbands and wives. But it requires even more submission one to the other according to the Lord's commands. A couple who is obedient to observing God's manual for marriage will be fulfilled in a way that comes from allowing the Holy Spirit control of the relationship. Such mutual

<sup>3</sup> Wiersbe, Warren W.: The Bible Exposition Commentary. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. 1 Pe 3:7

<sup>4</sup> Keener, Craig S. ; InterVarsity Press: The IVP Bible Background Commentary : New Testament. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 1993, S. 1 Pe 3:7

submission will bring to the relationship: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control, along with a deep sense of security. In the words of Proverbs you will rejoice in your spouse and feel exhilarated in their love (Proverbs 5:18, 19). Why would anyone try to do it any other way?