

Traits of a Woman of God (1 Pet. 3:1-6)

1. Overview of “The Traits of a Woman of God”
 - a. Her Submission (to her husband)
 - b. Her Character
2. Her Submission
 - a. Overall instruction of this passage
 - b. Overview
 - i. Meaning of submission
 - ii. Reason for submission
 - iii. Priority of submission
 - c. Meaning of submission
 - i. Definition of “submit”
 1. *hupotassō* literally means “to place [*tassō*] under [*hupo*].”
 2. Military term that describes a soldier following the orders of the ranking officer
 - ii. Imagery of headship
 1. Eph. 5:22-23 [22] Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church
 2. Parallel between Christ’s headship over the church and the husband’s headship over his wife
 - iii. Comparison to other areas of submission
 1. “In the same way...” (3:1)
 2. Submission to governing authorities (2:13-14)
 - a. Our general mode of operation is to submit, not to rebel, revolt, or fight against the government
 3. Submission of slaves to masters (2:18)
 - a. Regarding household slaves (*oiketēs*)
 - b. Addresses a very reasonable protest against submission: “my master is unreasonable”
 - c. Submission is commanded regardless of the personality

of the master

- d. the subject is to submit to him who is in the position of authority
- e. Import: a wife is to submit to her husband regardless of his personality or character

iv. Mode of submission

1. Middle voice of the verb “be submissive”

- a. Middle voice = reflexive
- b. Better translated as “submit yourselves” like 2:13
- c. Import: Willing and voluntary submission

2. What willing and voluntary is:

- a. Not merely to respond to an aggressive or demanding husband
- b. To submit even when the husband is not a leader-type
- c. To seek your husband’s guidance
- d. To avoid manipulation
- e. To sincerely follow
- f. To not argue or fight with him

d. Reason for submission

i. Obedience to the Lord is the ordinary response of the child of God (1:2, 14, 22)

ii. Divine omniscience

- 1. God gives the extreme condition of an unbelieving husband
- 2. Spiritual condition of the husband is no excuse for insubordination

iii. Divine sovereignty

1. The sovereign God gave you your husband

a. Sovereignty of God is a biblical doctrine

- i. Eph. 1:11
- ii. Rom. 8:28
- iii. Psalm 103:19
- iv. Isaiah 46:10

v. Gen. 50:20

b. Every act of obedience requires a great deal of faith

2. Submit for the Lord's sake, not necessarily for the sake of your husband's character or personality

a. 1 Pet. 2:13

b. Eph. 5:21

iv. Divine care

1. The Lord loves to take care of you

a. Matt. 6:25-33

2. Hypocrisy to trust in the Lord for eternal life and not for earthly life

a. 1 Samuel 2:30

3. Scriptures that assure us God's care

a. Ps. 37:25

b. Heb. 13:5

c. 1 Pet. 5:7

4. Divine care is on your side

e. Priority of submission

i. God's word limits submission to human authority

1. Submission to God's word is to be prioritized above submission to the words of men

2. God never relegates His supreme authority to a mere man

3. Supreme allegiance is to the Lord

4. Servants to the Lord before servants to any man

5. Submit to the lesser human authority as long as they do not contradict the word of God

ii. Must be an expert student of the word of God

iii. Must deal honestly with Scripture

iv. Examples of this principle

1. Acts 5:29

2. Daniel and his three friends

v. True also of submission to governing authorities

3. Her Character (3:1-4)

- a. Overall passage has to do with winning an unbelieving husband
- b. “Chaste and respectful”
 - i. “Chaste” is better translated as “pure”
 - 1. Pure = *hagnos*, meaning undefiled, clean, and purged
 - 2. Purity in her character, motive, words, and life
 - 3. A sanctified life is convicting
 - 4. Example of Richard Baxter
 - ii. “Without a word”
 - 1. Does not mean God’s word is unnecessary
 - a. 1 Pet. 1:23
 - b. James 1:18
 - c. Rom. 10:17
 - 2. Do not badger or annoy
 - iii. “Respectful” is better translated as “God-fearing”
 - 1. Same language (*en phobos*) in 1:17
 - 2. Fear of God commanded in 2:17
 - 3. Fearing God means:
 - a. Fear of offending the Lord
 - b. Commitment to honoring the Lord
- c. Inner Beauty
 - i. Contrasted from external beauty
 - ii. “The hidden person of the heart” = what you are on the inside
 - iii. “imperishable [*aphthartos*] quality” = lasts forever
 - 1. Like our heavenly inheritance (1:4)
 - 2. Like the word of God (1:23)
 - 3. Contrast to the perishable body
 - iv. “Gentle and quiet spirit”
 - 1. “Gentle” can mean meek and docile OR opposite of harsh and angry
 - 2. “Quiet” can mean the opposite of boisterous and noisy OR tranquil and calm

- 3. Meek and non-boisterous = posture of submissiveness
 - 4. Non-harsh and calm = peaceful inner character
 - 5. Both can fit the context
- v. Invest more in inner beauty that lasts than external beauty which will definitely fade away
 - 1. Proverbs 11:22
- vi. In short, adorn yourself with godliness
 - 1. Martha Stewart is not your aim, but godliness is
- 4. Conclusion
 - a. Encouraged or convicted?
 - i. If encouraged, then continue on the pathway of the Lord
 - ii. If convicted, don't ignore the sting of sin or the smudge in the mirror
 - iii. Same goes for husbands
 - b. Deal with conviction with
 - i. Confession
 - ii. Repentance
 - c. Abide in Christ
 - i. John 15:4-5
 - ii. Matt. 11:29
 - iii. Prov. 13:20
 - 1. Walk with Christ who is infinitely wise (Col. 2:3)
 - iv. Daily walk with Christ and you will conform more and more to His likeness and become a woman whose perfume is the sweet aroma of Christ (2 Cor. 2:14), whose pure and God-fearing presence brings life to those who are dead in their trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1), whose conduct will cause those who observe her to glorify our Father who is in heaven (Matt. 5:16).