

Joint Heirs of Hope | 1 Peter 3:1–7

¹Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ²when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—⁴but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. ⁵For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

⁷Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.” (1 Peter 3:1–7)

Discuss [adapt the questions as needed]:

1. The sermon opens with the image of people who "hold no leverage" – servants, wives in the Roman world, anyone in a marginalised position. Think of a time in your life when you felt powerless or disadvantaged in a relationship or situation. Looking back, how did you respond?
How does Peter's call to "faithful living right where you are" encourage you if you were to find yourself in a similar situation?

2. The preacher reframes submission not as passive compliance, but as agency to be a witness for Christ. How does seeing your conduct in difficult relationships as a form of witness change the way you approach those relationships? Can you think of someone whose quiet faithfulness has impacted you more than their words?

3. Peter contrasts external adornment with "the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit." In what ways are we, both men and women, tempted to rely on

externals (appearance, status, achievements, even Bible knowledge or serving in church) rather than cultivating inner character? What would intentionally pursuing that inner beauty look like for you this season?

4. The sermon highlights Peter's call to those with power and privilege are called to use it to *lift others up* — from husbands understanding and honouring their wives. An example was shared of Basil building the world's first hospital. Where in your life do you hold some form of advantage or authority (at home, at work, in your community)? What might it look like to steward that position in a way that reflects Christ?

Reflection and application:

5. Peter ends the passage with a sober reminder: how we treat others, especially those with less power than us, directly affects our walk with God. In your relationships right now, whether you're in a position of submission or of authority, what is one concrete thing you can do differently, in response to God's Word?
Share it with the group, and take some time to pray for one another.