

HUSBANDS & WIVES – TOGETHER

By – Earl Walters

For the past few weeks the headlines have almost daily shouted about Gay marriages being performed. When you turn on the TV you are confronted with another “star” who is proud of their gay lifestyle or just got “married” as Rosie O’Donnell did this week.

Many of us have said “this is just a minority, they are not important”.

My friend, they may be a minority, but they are vocal and have the money to make a great impact.

Whether we like it or not, or even if we refuse to acknowledge it, **the battle has begun.**

The scriptural lifestyle is under attack from some very powerful enemies.

What are we called to do? How does a person live a spiritual lifestyle?

ADAPT A TORAH LIFESTYLE----

- A. Get out of Debt
- B. Become a scripturally obedient Husband & Wife.
- C. Become part of a Torah observant community.

I am making an assumption that everyone in this room is a believer. If that is not the case, I encourage you to not take another breath before calling upon Messiah for your salvation.

The Torah lifestyle is hollow and meaningless without Yeshua.

I want to call your attention to several points regarding your requirements in living such a lifestyle.

First, what do I mean by “Get out of debt”.

Can that be done in today’s society?

Prov 22: 7 says **The rich rules over the poor. And the borrower is servant to the lender.**

We need to strive to be servant to Yahweh only.

While I was growing up my family had just one car, one television set, one radio, record player, camera, refrigerator, toaster and cooking stove.

You know what kind of arsenal of electrical appliances and electronic gadgets today's households are littered with, especially if they have children.

My point is that, as technology has progressed and as standards of living have changed (I am doubtful that they have risen much in the Western world), the cost of the basket of goods that one requires in order to participate in this "new economy" has vastly increased, so that, along with soaring healthcare, education, and insurance costs, there is a very heavy burden placed on anyone who isn't seriously rich.

A recently published book is, 'The Two Income Trap', by Harvard Law School professor Elisabeth Warren and Amelia Warren Tyagi (Basic Books, 2003). They explain "why middle-class mothers and fathers are going broke."

According to Elisabeth Warren, who conducted extensive research on the subject:

"The [American] families in the worst financial trouble are **not the usual suspects**. They are not the very young, tempted by the freedom of their first credit cards. They are not the elderly, trapped by failing bodies and declining savings accounts. And they are not a random assortment...who lack self-control to keep their spending in check. Rather, the people who consistently rank in the worst financial trouble are united by one surprising characteristic. **They are parents with children at home.** Having a child is now the single best predictor that a woman will end up in financial collapse.

"Consider a few facts. **Our study showed that [in the US] married couples with children are more than twice as likely to file for bankruptcy as their childless counterparts.**

A divorced woman raising a youngster is **nearly three times more likely** to file for bankruptcy than her single friend who never had children.

"Over the past generation, the signs of middle-class distress have continued to grow, in good times and in bad, in recessions and in booms.

If those trends persist, **more than five million [US] families with children** will file for bankruptcy by the end of this decade. This would mean that across the country nearly one in seven families with children would have declared itself flat broke, losers in the great American economic game.

"Bankruptcy has become deeply entrenched in American life. This year [2003], **more people will end up bankrupt than will suffer a heart attack.** More adults will file for bankruptcy than will be diagnosed with cancer. More people will file for bankruptcy than will graduate from college.

And, in an era when traditionalists decry the demise of the institution of marriage, Americans will file more petitions for bankruptcy than for divorce."

According to the authors, it is **not over-consumption** that is driving many middle-class families into bankruptcy, but **the lack of a safety net.**

Middle-class families don't qualify for all kinds of programs that are available to the poor.

Moreover, the family safety net no longer exists for the modern two-earner couple, which makes them "actually more vulnerable than the traditional single-breadwinner family."

Professor Warren explains that a generation or so ago, the typical family consisted of the father being responsible for the economic health of the family, while the mother fulfilled roles such as homemaker or helpmate.

The mother's role was, in the words of the authors, the one of a "careful guardian of what her husband brought home," and "if her husband was laid off, fired, or otherwise left without a paycheck, the stay-at-home mother didn't simply stand helplessly on the sidelines as her family toppled off an economic cliff; she looked for a job to make up some of that lost income.

Similarly, if her husband had a heart attack and was expected to stay home for a while, she could find work and add a new income source to help the family stay afloat financially.

A stay-at-home mother served as the family's ultimate insurance against unemployment or disability-insurance that had a very real economic value even when it wasn't drawn on."

The problem with the two-income family is that it doesn't plan its financial commitments geared to a single income by saving the extra income that is derived by the mother.

According to Warren, "millions of two-income families used that second income to purchase opportunities for their children - a home in a safe neighborhood with good schools, a comprehensive health insurance policy, two reliable cars, preschool, and college tuition.

They made long-term commitments to ongoing expenses - and they counted on both incomes to make ends meet."

So, when one of the members of a two-income family loses his or her job, the safety net (the mother entering the workforce) that was available to the single-breadwinner family is no longer available.

And once the combined income of the two-income family collapses as a result of one member losing his or her job, "the modern couple doesn't have a prayer of making

ends meet."

'The Two Income Trap' presents a disturbing trend.

As suggested above, the high and continuously rising cost of living in the Western industrialized countries has created something called modern-day poverty, or poverty in affluence, whereby a large number of middle- and even upper-middle-class families have **very little left by the time they have paid for their mortgages, taxes, insurance premiums, food, and children's education.**

These families may have a combined income that is considered comfortable today.

But despite their relatively high incomes, they are highly vulnerable in the event that one member is laid off or can no longer work for whatever reason.

Modern capitalism has created a widening wealth inequity whereby a small sector of our advanced Western societies is living in style, while most families are increasingly dependent on asset inflation (notably in property) which enables them to take on additional debts in order to maintain their standard of living.

At the same time, it ought to be clear that the poor, who don't own any assets, have become totally disenfranchised, since with home prices continuously rising, their ability to purchase them has diminished.

We have been brainwashed to believe that we cannot live without all these extra things.

We are told our kids or grandkids will be deprived without the latest toy.

We must break this cycle.

Clothes do not have to be the latest fad or style.

We do not need the newest car.

How can we expect Yahweh to bless us when we are not obedient to His Word.

He says do not borrow.

We over commit on debt to buy things we don't need and then complain to Yahweh that He is not blessing us financially.

Why is it so important for us to get control of our finances?

It has been my observation that the majority of the strife within marriages results from financial problems.

We must also:

Become a scripturally obedient Husband & Wife.

Some of you might not like the following Scripture. Sorry, but it is specific and important in our life.

Submission to Husbands

1 peter 3 ¹ Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear. ³ Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel-- ⁴ rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of Yahweh. ⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in Yahweh also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

A Word to Husbands

⁷ Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Called to Blessing

⁸ Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* *courteous; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For

*"He who would love life
And see good days,
Let him refrain his tongue from evil,
And his lips from speaking deceit.
¹¹ Let him turn away from evil and do good;
Let him seek peace and pursue it.
¹² For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their prayers;
But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."*

Suffering for Right and Wrong

¹³ And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. *"And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."* ¹⁵ But sanctify *the Lord Yahweh in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶ having a good

conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Messiah may be ashamed. ¹⁷ For *it is better*, if it is the will of Yahweh, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Up to this point Peter has been talking about submission. In Chapter 2 verses 13 - 17 he spoke of Believers submitting to governing authorities. In verses 18 - 25 Peter spoke to slaves encouraging them to submit to their masters, even masters who may not have been very kind. **And now he addresses wives and gives them some godly advice in the way of submitting to their husbands.**

Now, admittedly this is an area which has been abused, misunderstood and taken out of context by not only the world but, unfortunately, even some of those in the assembly. **From this and other portions of Scripture some have arrived at the conclusion that women are second class citizens and should keep quiet and march when they're given orders.**

The word submissive certainly carries with it the idea of being obedient. But, as we'll see this is not a one way street. Husbands too have an obligation to their wives which we'll also look at. **So, you guys aren't going to get off the hook this morning.**

But, it's important to know that it's not a matter of some burdensome command given to wives by Yahweh, and it's not a similar command given to husbands with the idea of keeping both parties in line, like some cop mediating a domestic disturbance.

This is not why Peter gives such instruction.

The Ruach HaKodesh is giving us Yahweh's way of bringing love and stability to the institution He created in the Garden of Eden, known as marriage, with the first man and woman, Adam and Eve.

Yahweh's intention is that a wife and a husband are to compliment each other. One is not the King while the other is the lowly servant.

A. Submission in the home.

1. (1-2) **The heart of a godly wife.**

Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear.

a. Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands: The godly wife will *be* submissive to her husband. This submission isn't a

reward for the husband's good behavior, it is commanded by Yahweh as the proper order for the home.

i. The teaching about submission was especially relevant to a first century married woman who would come to Yeshua. She would ask questions such as "Should I leave my husband?" or "Should I change my behavior towards him?" or "Should I assume a superior position in Yeshua?"

ii. In the culture of the ancient world, it was almost unthinkable for a wife to adopt a different religion than her husband. Believer women who came to Yeshua before their husbands needed instruction.

b. Likewise: Proper submission in the home follows the same principles of submission as towards government or our employers. It is a submission not only of the actions, but also of the heart - as demonstrated by the surrendering heart of Yeshua (1 Peter 2:21-25).

i. The call for submission is not merely a call for love and considerate action. **It is a call to relate in submission to authority.** The term *submission* is used outside the New Testament to describe the submission and obedience of soldiers in an army to those of superior rank. It literally means "to order under."

ii. Yet, submission to authority can be totally consistent with *equality* in importance, dignity, and honor. Yeshua was subject to both His parents and to Yahweh the Father, but was not lower than either of them. **"Thus the command to wives to be subject to their husbands should never be taken to imply inferior personhood or spirituality, or lesser importance."**

iii. Of course, submission in marriage follows the same principles as submission in other spheres. We submit to Yahweh's appointed authority as our obligation before Yahweh, unless that authority directs us to sin. In that case, it is right to obey Yahweh rather than men (Acts 4:19-20).

iv. The slave was to submit with all respect doing it as unto Yeshua, whether the master was kind or cruel. But it is born out of a love and submission to Messiah who is our Master and King, and who has loved us unto death.

In the same way the wife is to submit to her husband with respect, doing all as unto Yeshua.

But let's get into this idea of a wife submitting to her husband.

I know that the militant women's movement would have us believe that some male chauvinist dreamt up this notion, but that's simply not the case.

It was probably a male chauvinist who twisted the truth about this area of submission.

But, when it comes to roles in a marriage, it is the Creator of man Who is the One who instituted marriage and who knew what was best for that marriage, especially in light of sin entering into the world.

We need only go back to GEN 3:16. To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

Yahweh set it up so that the one who is responsible to Yahweh Himself for how he rules his family is the husband.

Though Gen.3:16 is set in the context of judgment for sinful behavior, this is not necessarily an exclusive punishment for the woman. I know some women may think so, but it was intended by Yahweh to keep order in a society which now had to deal with sinful ambitions.

But what has happened because of sin, is that some men see this as an opportunity to dominate instead of taking the privilege and honor of ruling well and lovingly in that marriage relationship, with the idea of helping his wife to want to willingly submit to the authority Yahweh has given him in that relationship.

c. Be submissive to your own husbands: Peter carefully observes that wives are called to submit to their **own husbands**, not to men in general.

The submission is not to him as a male but to him as **husband**.

Many times people strive to show this as a requirement for women to submit to all men as if they are of lesser worth.

THAT IS NOT THE WILL OF YAHWEH AS PRESENTED IN THE TORAH.

i. The principle of submission is presented in many different ways in the Brit Chadasha.

- ? ? **Yeshua submitted to His parents (Luke 2:51).**
- ? ? **Demons submitted to the disciples (Luke 10:17).**
- ? ? **Citizens should submit to government authority (Romans 13:1 and 5, Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13).**
- ? ? **The universe will submit to Yeshua (1 Corinthians 15:27 and Ephesians 1:22).**
- ? ? **Unseen spiritual beings submit to Yeshua (1 Peter 3:22).**
- ? ? **Believers should submit to assembly leaders (1 Corinthians 16:15-16 and 1 Peter 5:5).**
- ? ? **Wives should submit to husbands (Colossians 3:18, Titus 2:5, 1 Peter 3:5, and Ephesians 5:22-24).**
- ? ? **The assembly should submit to Yeshua (Ephesians 5:24).**
- ? ? **Servants should submit to masters (Titus 2:9 and 1 Peter 2:18).**
- ? ? **Believers should submit to Yahweh (Hebrews 12:9 and James 4:7).**

ii. None of these relations are reversed. For example, masters are never told to submit to servants, Yeshua is never told to submit to the assembly, and so forth.

d. That even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives: The benefit of submission is shown in the way that it affects husbands for Yahweh. A wife's submission is a powerful expression of her trust in Yahweh. This kind of faith and obedience can accomplish great things, even **without a word.**

i. Wives may want to shape their husbands - either to Messiah or in Messiah - through their words. Peter reminds them that Yahweh's plan is that wives impact their husbands not through persuasive lectures, but through godly submission, **chaste conduct**, and the **fear** of Yahweh.

ii. There is a sense in which a wife's efforts to shape her husband through her own words and efforts may hinder the power of Yahweh's working on the husband. It is much more

effective it is to submit Yahweh's way, demonstrating trust in Him, and to let *Yahweh* have his way with the husband.

iii. "The attractiveness of a wife's submissive behavior even to an unbelieving husband suggests that Yahweh has inscribed the rightness and beauty of role distinctions include male leadership or headship in the family and female acceptance of and responsiveness to that leadership . . . The unbelieving husband sees this behavior and deep within perceives the beauty of it. Within his heart there is a witness that this is right, this is how Yahweh intended men and women to relate as husband and wife. He concludes, therefore, that the gospel which his wife believes must be true as well."

e. **Some do not obey the word:** This refers to an unbelieving husband, but it is a stronger idea than merely "do not believe." It has the idea of someone in active disobedience to Yahweh's word. Even these husbands can be won through the godly conduct of loving wives.

Here Peter is talking about a situation which was very common in the first century and is somewhat common today, though not in quite the same way. He's talking to Believing wives who may have had a husband who didn't believe. **Notice that Peter doesn't encourage the wife to leave this guy but to submit to him.**

Why? Well marriage is not just for Believers. Though an unbeliever doesn't have the Ruach of Yahweh indwelling them through faith in Messiah that doesn't change Yahweh's order for marriage. And so, it's certainly possible for a believer to be united to an unbeliever.

That is not what Yahweh desires for an unmarried Believer to seek out as we see in **2CO 6:14 "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"**

There will be cases where a marriage of two unbelievers find that one may come to faith in Messiah while the other rejects. But in the case of a believing wife she is still to fulfill her role and ministry as a wife before Yahweh even if her husband isn't a believer. This was much more difficult for a woman in the first century in the Roman empire.

Women had few rights in the eyes of Rome. They were just a step above slaves and in some cases on the same level.

It was belief in Messiah which liberated women from the abuses of a system which placed them as lowly creatures.

Yeshua Messiah emancipated women, just as he did men, from the bondage of sin and then placed both groups into one; the Body of Messiah, being joint heirs of the Kingdom of Yahweh. No longer was a man to treat a woman as something less than an equal as regards to their standing before Yahweh in Messiah.

This didn't mean that their roles would be the same, it just meant that the Believer woman, like the Believer slave, was a child of Yahweh.

In Messiah both master and slave were on equal footing. Both were indwelt with the Spirit, both had access to the throne of Yahweh through Messiah. Both had the promise of an eternal inheritance. And both called Yeshua Savior and King.

And so too for the woman. But you can imagine how that flew in the first century where women were viewed as inferior to men by law.

William Barclay writes: "In Greek civilization the duty of the woman was to remain indoors and to be obedient to her husband. It was the sign of a good woman that she must see as little, hear as little and ask as little as possible."

He continues: "**Under Roman law a woman had no rights. In law she remained forever a child. When she was under her father she was under *patria potestas*, (Latin) the *father's power*, which gave the father the right even of life and death over her; and when she married she passed equally into the power of her husband.**

She was entirely subject to her husband and completely at his mercy."

Now, you take two pagan people in a marriage under Roman law who worship the gods of Rome and now all of a sudden the wife in that marriage becomes a believer and her husband doesn't. This is not simply now an inconvenience, this had some serious problems for the believing wife, especially if she wanted to share her faith and her husband didn't want any part of it. And Peter recognizes this. The husband could have created a lot of problems for his wife, legally.

But Peter, always the evangelist, encourages the wife in such a situation to take heart because Yahweh desires to use her to be a witness for her husband. The end of verse one..... "they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives."

Won over without words? Yeah. You ever hear the expression, 'one picture is worth a thousand words'? That's what Peter is saying to these wives and to wives today who find themselves in a similar situation. Let your husband see your salvation.

It has been said: "If the husband will not yield to the authoritative spoken word of the gospel, he may be reached by the wife's silent demonstrations of its transforming power in her daily conduct. Instead of trying to coax and argue her husband into becoming a Believer, she will be more effective by quietly living out its saving power

before him. His conscience will be forced to admit the presence of a divine power in her faith that he has often mocked. It is her translation of the gospel into life -- right before the man's eyes -- which proves a telling witness."

This doesn't mean that the believing wife may not get an opportunity to share the word of Yahweh, but what it means is that the opportunity will be paved by loving submission which loves even when the husband expects an attitude from her because he hasn't accepted her faith in Messiah. But instead he sees the love of Messiah.

2 ..."when they see the purity and reverence of your lives." The NAS puts it, "as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.", while the NKJV puts it, "when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear."

The idea here is that the wife has been called by Yahweh to demonstrate His love in her life in the marriage whether her husband is a believer or not. Her behavior is to be chaste. The Greek word is literally translated clean and means innocent and modest.

This would be the opposite of sinful and selfish. And this would also tell us that even in a marriage we must obey Yahweh rather than men if that wife, for example, is called upon to sin in that marriage by her husband.

None the less, submission to her husbands authority is her call by Yahweh. And in the case of an unbelieving husband this submission may very well lead to his salvation. That should be an encouragement for any wife in that situation. Granted, this is not a guarantee of that but the Lord can certainly use her life as the only opportunity he may ever have of tasting the love and grace of Messiah.

Just as Messiah was self-less as He stood in our place for the penalty of our sins, wives are to be showing a selflessness pertaining to marriage.

William Barclay puts it this way when talking about submissiveness. **"It is not a spineless submission that is meant but, as someone has finely put it, a voluntary selflessness. It is the submission which is based on the death of pride and the desire to serve. It is the submission not of fear but of perfect love."**

O.K., so a believing wife has an unbelieving husband. How does she attract him to Messiah? Verse 3 "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes.

4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in Yahweh's sight."

The temptation is to attract her husband to her faith by attracting him to herself. Not the inner self, but the outer self. Peter warns against this. He talks about the

beauty which Messiah gives to a believer as opposed to the beauty of the world which passes away.

3 "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes." Oh, you ladies are in trouble. You know some have taken this verse to be a prohibition of such things. This isn't the case. Peter isn't suggesting that women stop putting their hair up or wearing jewelry or wearing clothes.

He's simply putting into perspective what kind of beauty should be utilized to attract her husband to Messiah.

The problem Peter is addressing here in our text has to do with excesses. Peter has nothing against braided hair as such. But here the idea of braiding was an elaborate process of taking the hair and forming it into intricate patterns which took a great deal of time. It wasn't something the woman could do on her own. It cost a great deal of money as you paid a specialist to spend hours going through this process.

Wearing gold jewelry again speaks of excesses. There's nothing wrong with wearing jewelry. But Peter wants these women to understand that you don't need to go to excesses to attract your husband into the kingdom using worldly means.

It's a good thing for women to be attractive for their husbands. And that will vary between people, but keep in mind that the husband really does respond to his wife's inner beauty which should not be neglected for the outward beauty only which we're so tempted to accentuate.

What would be the point of dressing up in your finest dress and putting on your finest jewelry when your attitude is contentious? How will that effect your husband's attitude when he only wants peace in the house and instead he's got a beautiful looking but argumentative wife?

PRO 21:19 "Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife."

PRO 25:24 "Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife."

Now I know this works both ways. But our text is talking about the wife. And her role is one which should have the proper attitude accompanying that role, especially before an unbelieving husband. A believing husband can and should be patient with his wife when she's not having the best day. Love is to cover a multitude of sins. But an unbelieving husband may not always have the patience to deal with sin.

4 "Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in Yahweh's sight."

What is this inner self, or as the NAS puts it, "the hidden person of the heart? Paul alludes to this in 2CO 4:16 "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

Essentially it's the real you which will live forever. And now in Messiah you are a new creature fit for His kingdom because we now are clothed in His righteousness. And so Peter is saying that this inner self, this new creature in Messiah, should be the one taking center stage to honor Yeshua so that the husband, in this case, may clearly see Messiah at work in your members.

The inner should effect the outer in such a way where the inner is seen. Again, Paul brings this out in a practical way in ROM 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of Yahweh's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to Yahweh - **this is your spiritual + Or reasonable + act of worship.**

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what Yahweh's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."

This is obviously not limited to wives, but includes everyone who is a believer in Messiah. **Our entire lives should be an act of worship before our Yahweh and this is what Peter wants these wives to see.** In other words, worship Yahweh by being a wife who submits to your husband in the love of Messiah.

Peter says this is the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in Yahweh's sight. **The phrase "unfading beauty" is better translated "imperishable quality" as the NAS puts it.** The idea is to contrast the outward beauty which is perishable with that quality which will last forever.

That is what Yahweh places great worth in. We don't want to measure the standard of a gentle and quiet spirit according to man's evaluation but we want to know what Yahweh says of the matter and we need to know that Yahweh deems it precious in His sight when we walk according to His ways in the power of His Spirit.

This is what the believing wife is being told regarding her unbelieving husband as well as the other situation of two believing spouses.

In either case the inner beauty should manifest itself for the sake of the relationship which by its very nature is a picture of the relationship of Yahweh with man in intimate communion.

In a marriage relationship the two become one. In Messiah we are one in the Spirit. We are bound to our loving Yahweh. Messiah is in us and we in Him by faith.

Now to drive his point home Peter uses the example of the Tanakh women who followed the Lord by faith. **5 "For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in Yahweh used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear."**

Peter says, 'you want to make yourself beautiful to your husband and to Yahweh?'

Consider the godly women of the Tanakh **What does Peter say about these women? They put their hope in Yahweh**

This can be a tall order for a woman who has an unbelieving husband. When your situation is not ideal it can be hard to trust that Yahweh is in total control of your situation and that you can count on Him to be there for you. The temptation is to try and solve the situation in your own strength.

But Peter says you need to trust Yahweh in all things especially during those times when the situation is beyond your control, as is the case with an unbelieving husband. Your part in that situation is to honor Yahweh and in the process Yahweh will honor you. That may or may not be seeing the unbelieving spouse come to Messiah, but we must still hope in Yahweh.

But Peter says, that in the process of hoping in Yahweh, the O.T. women used to make themselves beautiful. The NKJV and the NAS use the expression of adorning themselves as they put their hope in Yahweh. The idea here is they put on the righteousness of Messiah as they trusted the Lord.

Peter wants these women to do the same. Paul talks about this in **Rom.13:14 "Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Yeshua Messiah, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature."** + Or the flesh +

2. (3-4) The true beauty of a godly woman.

Do not let your adornment be merely outward; arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel; rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of Yahweh.

- a. **Do not let your adornment be merely outward:** Peter doesn't forbid all adornment. But for the godly woman, outward adornment is always in moderation, and her emphasis is always on inward adornment.

i. **Arranging the hair:** In the world Peter lived in, women arranged and dyed their hair. They also wore wigs, especially blonde wigs, made with hair imported from Germany. All this **adornment is merely outward**. Peter does not forbid a woman fixing her hair, or wearing jewelry, any more than he forbids her wearing **apparel** (*fine* is not in the original).

b. **Rather let it be the hidden person of the heart:** Real beauty comes from the **hidden person of the heart**. It isn't something you wear or primp for. It is something you *are*.

i. The real question is "What do you depend on to make yourself beautiful?" Peter's point is not that any of these are forbidden, but that they should not be a woman's **adornment**, her source of beauty.

c. **The incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit:** The inner beauty of a godly woman is **incorruptible**. This means that it does not decay or get worse with age. Instead, **incorruptible beauty** only gets better with age, and is of so much more value than the beauty that comes from the hair, jewelry, or clothing.

d. **A gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of Yahweh:** Peter describes the character of true beauty - a **gentle and quiet spirit**. These character traits are not promoted for women by our culture, they are **very precious in the sight of Yahweh**.

i. A woman can trust her ability to influence and control her husband, or she can trust Yahweh and *be submissive*. A woman can trust her outward adornment, or she can trust Yahweh and cultivate *a gentle and quiet spirit*. It all comes back to trust in Yahweh, so she should be like **the holy women who trusted in Yahweh**

c. **As Sarah obeyed Abraham:** Sarah's submission to Abraham was demonstrated by two things. First, she **obeyed** Abraham, even when it was difficult and he was wrong (as in Genesis 12:10-20). Second, she *honored* Abraham by **calling him lord**. It is possible to *obey* someone without showing them the *honor* that is part of submission. True submission knows the place of both *obedience* and *honor*.

i. "An attitude of submission to a husband's authority will be reflected in numerous words and actions each day which reflect deference to his leadership and an acknowledgment of his final responsibility." (Grudem)

d. If you do good and are not afraid with any terror: True submission, full of faith in Yahweh, has no room for fear or terror. It does good and leaves the result to Yahweh, not man.

i. Do good reminds us that true submission is not a sulking surrender to authority. It is an active embrace of Yahweh's will, demonstrating trust in Him.

The enemy would love to see a household in upheaval, but Yahweh is able to empower us to clothe ourselves with Messiah to the degree that our victory is evident as we live for Him and honor Him and are used by Him in the process to give Him glory. And **that's to take place in a marriage relationship as well.** The power of sin is not to rule in earthly relationships we have. Messiah is to rule and reign in our hearts.

3. (5-6) Examples of submission.

For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in Yahweh also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

a. In former times, the holy women who trusted in Yahweh also adorned themselves: Peter reminds women that he doesn't call them to a new standard, but something that was practiced by holy women of former times.

b. Who trusted in Yahweh: When women submit to their husbands, and when they do not put trust in their outward adornment, they are like the holy women of former times who **trusted in Yahweh**. They powerfully demonstrate their faith.

But Peter reintroduces the subject of submission. **In verse 5 we read ... "They were submissive to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.**

Their beauty came in fulfilling their role in marriage which was to submit to the authority Yahweh gave their husbands. In the case of Sarah she obeyed Abraham and called him master or lord as other translations have it.

You mean to tell me that I have to call my husband master?

No. This was a cultural politeness and sign of respect in those days.

It's not unlike a child showing respect by calling his mom or dad **sir** when answering them.

Now we need to be careful not to let society rule how we show respect, but society can reflect respect in different ways as it's measured by Yahweh's word. His word must always be the final authority.

"You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear." As Abraham is the father of all believers, Sarah, his wife is metaphorically the mother of all women who believe and follow her example.

In other words you can identify yourself with Sarah if you follow her example in honoring Messiah in your marriage. So, follow her by doing what is right.

By the way, Sarah didn't do everything that was right. And so here the intent was to **follow her in her obedience not in her disobedience.**

"And do not give way to fear." Peter is saying that if you honor the Lord with your life in your marriage you don't need to be afraid that He won't use you or that you'll ever have to be ashamed of having to trust Yahweh.

In other words life may seem scary at times. But you don't need to approach life in fear if Messiah is your Lord because He is always with you. I mean fear can be a reality in a relationship where the unbelieving husband wants to make life miserable for his believing wife, but Yahweh assures her that she does not have to fear that He will forsake her.

As she lives in the power of the Ruach the love of Messiah will be used to speak to her husband.

She need not fear that she's in this alone.

All of this of course is to be used for all people in all areas of life.

It just happens to be brought out here for wives who may find themselves in the company of an unbelieving and non-supportive husband.

The answer is always the same. Let the fruit of the Ruach be tasted by all people so they desire to taste and see that Yeshua is good.

Your life is a testimony to that reality. And as we seek Him and trust Him He will accomplish His will in and through us.

You wives, see your role and ministry as something given to you by Yahweh Himself to glorify Him, and adorn yourselves with that inner beauty which attracts your husband in such a way that his role is fulfilled as he obeys Messiah in loving you.

We'll take a look at the men's role and ministry in marriage next week.

Singles, take note of what pleases Yahweh and use the same principles He has given us in Messiah in different relationships you find yourselves in. In all things honor Messiah with your lives.