

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

*Wives, live submissively to your husbands.  
Husbands, live considerately with your wives.*

**A WORD TO HUSBANDS AND WIVES**  
**1 Peter 3:1-7**

## 1. REVIEW

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7. How would you put these commands in your own words (*while still being accurate to the intent*)?

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What parts of this passage do you think are most counter-cultural? Why?

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What do you personally struggle with most when you read 1 Peter 3:1-7?

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## 2. ASSESS

### WOMEN

Where do you find submission to your husband hardest to practice or understand?

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Our culture is constantly reinforcing physical beauty as most valuable. How are you influencing other women to prioritize inner character over outer beauty?

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### MEN

Frustration or anger toward your wife is often a signal that one of your idols is at risk (*i.e. getting your own way, being in charge, having respect, your own time, etc.*) What types of conversations or disagreements cause your tone to change with those you love?

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Where has selfishness caused you to neglect the needs of your wife?

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## 3. APPLY

**WOMEN:** Identify a life that you've been believing about your role as a wife. Find and write out a scripture that will remind you of God's truth.

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**MEN:** Write down and share with someone in your group two ways that you're going to live more considerately with your wife (or, if unmarried, less selfishly with others) in the coming weeks.

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## MY GROUP'S APPLICATIONS

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## SERMON NOTES

**PART 1:** Wives, live submissively to your husband. (v1-6)

**PART 2:** Husbands, live considerately with your wives. (v7)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY...

### The Price of Submission:

"In Greco-Roman society it was expected that the wife would have no friends of her own and would worship the gods of her husband (Plutarch, Advice §19). If this expectation is applied to a Christian wife, it might result in trouble for several reasons. First, the very fact that a woman would adopt any religion other than her husband's violated the Greco-Roman ideal of an orderly home... disorder in the home was a threat not only to the family but to society. Christians were frequently blamed as the cause of public calamity because they introduced a new god, upsetting the religious status quo of the empire. Second, the husband and society would perceive the wife's worship of Jesus Christ as rebellion, especially if she worshipped Christ exclusively... the husband would also feel embarrassment and suffer criticism for not properly managing his household. This could seriously damage his social standing, even to the point of disqualifying him for certain honors and offices. Third, the wife's attendance at Christian worship would provide the opportunity for her to have fellowship with other Christians who possibly were not her husband's friends... It is an important point that Peter leaves the specifics of this matter strictly between husband and wife... the writings of the Greek moral philosophers do not usually address women (and slaves), but here Peter does so. Moreover, Peter affirms wives' (and slaves') choice to leave their former way of pagan life while at the same time instructing them to remain within their most basic relationship... Wives are exhorted to submit (hypotasomenai) to their husbands, just as citizens should submit to ruling authorities (2:13) and slaves to their masters (2:18). Voluntary submission is in view here. Husbands do not have the responsibility to ensure that wives submit to them." - Karen Jobes

## 5 DAY READING PLAN

### DAY 1

#### 1 PETER 3:1-2

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*How should I respond?*

### DAY 2

#### 1 PETER 3:3

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*How should I respond?*

### DAY 3

#### 1 PETER 3:4

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*How should I respond?*

### DAY 4

#### 1 PETER 3:5-6

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*How should I respond?*

### DAY 5

#### 1 PETER 3:7

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*How should I respond?*