

BEAUTY IN A FALLEN WORLD (1 PETER 3:1–7)

INTRODUCTION

Context: the evangelistic power (1 Pet. 2:12) of submission to unrighteous authority (1 Pet. 2:13–3:22) because submission shows how much we trust the goodness of God.

BEAUTY AS THE GOAL (1 PET. 3:1–4)

“In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by the way their wives live 2 when they observe your pure, reverent lives. 3 Don’t let your beauty consist of outward things like elaborate hairstyles and wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes, 4 but rather what is inside the heart—the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight” (1 Pet. 3:1–4).

1. What is true beauty?

- a. “the hidden person of the heart”
- b. “a gentle and quiet spirit”

2. Why beauty matters.

- a. This woman’s trust in God makes her beautiful to her husband. For her, beauty is the external evidence of an evangelistic trust in God.
- b. Beauty is God’s goal for your marriage because it shows off his beauty and portrays his goodness.

“Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised” (Prov. 31:30).

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Lesson 8

FEAR AS THE OBSTACLE TO BEAUTY (1 PET. 3:5–6)

“For in the past, the holy women who put their hope in God also adorned themselves in this way, submitting to their own husbands, 6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You have become her children when you do what is good and do not fear any intimidation” (1 Pet. 3:5–6).

1. A wife’s temptation to fear what Sarah’s life illustrates.

2. For a wife, the God-given shape of marriage in a fallen world tilts toward fear.

3. Fear as the driver behind control, distance, anger, etc.

A WIFE’S TRUST IN GOD RESISTS THE TEMPTATION TO FEAR

1. Trust in God

2. Hope in God

3. The result: Courage and beauty

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A HUSBAND'S CARE HELPS HIS WIFE RESIST FEAR (1 PET. 3:7)

"Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker partner, showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered" (1 Pet. 3:7).

1. In marriage, she has put herself in a vulnerable position.

2. A husband's role is to help his wife trust God:

- a. Make her feel understood (literally, "according to knowledge")
- b. Honor and cherish her.

3. This is extremely important to God ("so that your prayers will not be hindered")

"Because the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do what is evil" (1 Pet. 3:12).

4. How verses 6 and 7 work together:

- a. For the good: understanding makes trust easier.
- b. For the bad: a lack of understanding tempts a wife to fearfully respond with self-protective anger, withdrawal, etc.

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CONCLUSION: SWEETNESS = BEAUTY = GLORY TO GOD

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you” (Matt. 6:33).

1. **As a wife trusts God, and as a husband tenderly cares for her out of his own trust in God, they will together make vulnerability feel safe—and in that there is a satisfaction, a joy, a sweetness that they will not experience in any other human relationship.**
2. **The thing everyone wants—a sweet and intimate and safe marriage—comes as God’s purposes for their marriage are fulfilled, to reveal him as good and delightful so that he can be enjoyed as good and delightful.**

PREPARATION FOR NEXT LESSON

- Read “Jesus on Forgiveness” by Daryl Wingerd at bulletininserts.org/jesus-on-forgiveness