

If you are married... How does this passage impact the way you relate to your husband/wife?

If you are not married... What sort of qualities might you look for in a wife/husband, in view of this passage?

How might you prepare yourself now for the possibility of being a godly wife or husband in future?

Pray – especially for married couples among us.

Memory verse

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. **(1 Peter 3:3-4)**

Talk notes



Wives & husbands

1 Peter 3:1-7

The letter so far...

This semester we are reading 1 Peter – a letter from the apostle Peter, to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor in the mid-60s AD. Peter writes to encourage them (and us) to stand firm in God’s grace during our temporary stay in this world (5:12). As Christians, we can look forward to our heavenly inheritance with certainty, and keep going despite suffering as God gives us faith until we get there. Being a Christian means being part of a loving family, growing through God’s word and making God known to others. As “foreigners” in the world, Christians are to follow the example of Jesus in how we live and relate to the world around us. Today we’ll read about how being a Christian affects marriage.

Icebreaker

What do you think are the important ingredients for a good marriage? (Think of married people you know whose example has inspired or encouraged you. What is it about their relationship that has impressed you?)

Marriage by the book

Our passage today continues a section which began at 1 Peter 2:11.

Read 1 Peter 2:11-25 to refresh your memory.

Now read 1 Peter 3:1-7.

Complete the table.

Who is Peter speaking to?	What instructions does he give them?	What reasons/motivations are given for doing this?
v1-6		
v7		



Sarah was the wife of Abraham, the ancestor of all the people of Israel. Together they left their homeland to follow God’s promises (see Genesis 12-21).

How would your culture agree or disagree with this passage?

Does this passage challenge your own ideas about marriage?

What kind of beauty does God value? Do we value these things too?

In light of this passage, discuss the following statements... Do you agree? Why/why not?

- *Christian women should never wear makeup.*
- *Christian wives should never speak to their non-Christian husbands about the gospel, but simply live a good life.*
- *Christian women should call their husbands “lord” as Sarah did.*
- *In today’s modern world, men and women should be treated exactly the same.*
- *Respect must be earned. It’s impossible to respect someone who doesn’t deserve it.*

What particular challenges face Christian women with unbelieving husbands? How should they respond to these challenges? What hope or encouragement does this passage give them?

Women: How can we attain this “unfading beauty”?

Men: How can Christian men make it easier for Christian women to have the attitudes of v3-4?