



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	The Irresistible Beauty of a Tender Heart
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 3:1-6

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The most attractive people in the world are those who display depth of character and pleasant personalities. Solomon insisted that “[outward] beauty is passing” (Proverbs 31:30). As Peter speaks to a common issue in the early church (Christian wives married to unbelieving husbands), he also gives us three marks of a tenderhearted woman: in her actions, attitudes, and admiration.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Marriage magnifies the personality you already have
 - B. A New Jersey classified ad: "Honey, please come home. The children miss you, the lawn hasn't been mowed in three weeks, and the garden needs a worm like you. Your loving wife, Gretchen."
 - C. Submission is not an easy to talk about
 1. Responses range from nervous laughter to outright scorn
 2. New Mexico congressmen involved in controversy for citing the Bible, saying that a wife should voluntarily submit to her husband, while her husband should lovingly lead and sacrifice for her
 - D. In I Peter 3, Peter deals with four major areas of social interaction: the society, the workplace, the home/family, and the church
 - E. Verses 1-7 are addressed to wives and husbands; verses 1-6 are addressed to women in an unequally yoked marriage.
 1. Paul uses the phrase *unequally yoked* (see 2 Corinthians 6:14) to refer to the marriage of a believer and an unbeliever; they are married legally, not spiritually
 2. In ancient times, it was assumed the wife would follow whatever religion her husband was part of; therefore there were issues when a wife converted to Christianity, already seen as a subversive movement
 3. Unequally yoked spouses should not divorce or separate; there is something else that should and can be done
 - F. "I have no way of knowing whether or not you married the wrong person. I do know that many people have a lot of wrong ideas about marriage and what it takes to make that marriage happy and successful. I'll be the first to admit that it is possible that you did marry the wrong person. However, if you treat the wrong person like the right person, you could well end up having married the right person after all."—Zig Ziglar
- II. Three Marks of a Tenderhearted Woman
 - A. Her Actions Speak Louder than Her Words

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, when they observe [or watch, or carefully scrutinize] your chaste conduct accompanied by fear" (1 Peter 3:1-2)
 - a. Treating the wrong person like the right person and discovering you may have married the right person after all; the Lord uses relationship to win the unbelieving spouse
2. The Greco-Roman culture gave women basically no rights
 - a. An unmarried woman living at home was under a Roman law known as *patria potestas*—the absolute authority of the Roman father over the child.
 - b. A Roman father even had the right to execute his own children without any legal repercussions
 - c. When a Roman woman married, those rights passed to her husband, her new owner
3. Why are Peter's words to wives six times longer than his words to husbands?
 - a. The position of being a wife in those days was much more complicated and difficult: If a husband converted to Christianity, the wife would follow
 - b. If a wife converted to Christianity, not be the case; there would be trouble
4. There are two basic principles Peter (and Paul) tell the wife of an unbelieving husband to adhere to: continuation and submission.
 - a. Continuation—Stick with your husband; don't leave him because you're unequally yoked.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 7:14: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband."
 - ii. That is, the spouse is placed in a special, set-apart position for accessibility by God's Holy Spirit into the life of that person because of the influence of that believer; God has a unique access to reach and save a person.
 - b. Submission: *Likewise* in verse 1 refers to the previous chapter, in which Peter told believers to submit to government, to those in the workplace, and to Jesus Christ or the Father's will.
 - i. Submission does not infer moral, intellectual, or spiritual inferiority.
 - ii. Citizens must submit to government leaders, yet these leaders are not superior or better than any citizen.
 - iii. A master is over a servant, but it doesn't mean the master is intellectually better, superior, or loftier
 - iv. A Christian woman and a Christian man are equal: "There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).
 - c. Men should not turn into military leaders because of the verses that call for wives to submit
 - i. Submission does not imply the superiority of a male or inferiority of a female
 - ii. Submission for the functionality of the relationship.

- d. What about a believing wife having to submit to an unbelieving husband?
 - i. It doesn't mean you can or should submit to him when he's telling you to do something sinful or against God's will
 - ii. It does mean to respond to him, to relinquish your rights and serve his needs
 - iii. "The husband does not replace Christ as the woman's supreme authority. She must never follow her husband's leadership into sin, but even where a Christian wife may have to stand with Christ against the sinful will of her husband, she can still have a spirit of submission. She can show by her attitude and behavior that she does not like resisting his will and that she longs for him to forsake his sin and lead in righteousness so that her disposition to honor him as head can again produce harmony" —John Piper
- e. "Be submissive to your own husbands that even if some do not obey the word" - this *word* refers to God's Word -- "they, without a word" -- this *word* refers to the wife's word -- "may be won by the conduct of their wives" (v.1)
 - i. Does not mean that a wife never has to say anything about her testimony or the gospel
 - ii. We have been "born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, through the word of God" (1 Peter 1:23)
 - iii. The time does come when the husband has heard it all and heard enough, and he needs something stronger than just words—a life that he can see
 - iv. It's like when you're young and your parents tell you the same speech over and over again...
 - v. Nagging, badgering, and arguing with your husband will not convert him; high-pressure Christianity is never effective, especially in the home
 - vi. The unbelieving husband of a believing wife already feels threatened: His wife is in love with somebody else that he can't even see, and he has been demoted to number two
 - vii. A balance of influencing your husband without alienating him
- f. Peter's counsel in this situation: Be a good wife!
- g. "The silent preaching of a lovely life"—William Barclay
- h. Tension in home between believing mother and unbelieving father: "She served her husband as her master and did all she could to win him for You, speaking to him of You, and by her conduct, by which You made her so beautiful, finally, when her husband was at the end of his earthly span, she gained him for You" —Augustine

B. Her Attitude Is Her Prettiest Feature

- 1. "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 a quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God" (v. 3)
- 2. This is not a legalistic ban on fashion or style; everybody appreciates beauty; a \$17 billion a year industry

- a. Even 2,000 years ago, women dyed their hair bold colors and wore wigs, the most popular color of which was blond, and which have been found in Christian catacombs
 - b. Examples of physical beauty/fashion in the Bible include the description of the bride in Song of Solomon and the robe and ring given to the prodigal son by his father in the New Testament (see Luke 15:22)
 - c. It is possible for an unkempt wife to discourage her husband.
 3. "If the barn needs painting, paint it."
 - a. Don't just paint the house—furnish it with holiness and character.
 - b. "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30)
 4. There's always a promise and allure of beauty in the world, but Peter's saying here, "Hey, it's fine to look good, but get a spiritual makeover—incorruptible beauty."
 - a. The world's idea of beauty is all about youth, but incorruptible beauty makes a woman look and be more beautiful as the years go on
 - b. You can be stunning on the outside and ugly on the inside.
 5. The hidden person of the heart is the real you—your reputation and character—and you need to be very concerned about it.
 - a. Do you spend as much time and energy on the hidden person of the heart as on getting ready in the morning?
 6. Two types of furnishings for the hidden person of the heart: gentle and quiet
 - a. *Gentle* means meek, which doesn't mean you're a cowering person, but rather that you have power under control.
 - i. Being meek means your spirit, your mouth, your responses, and your emotions are under God's control.
 - b. "Quiet" means "tranquil, undisturbed," like a glassy lake.
 - i. A wife can set the tone of the whole house by her tranquility of heart.
- C. Her Admiration Is More Biblical than Conventional
1. When a woman of God looks for role models and examples to follow, she'll look in the Bible, not in *People* magazine.
 2. Verse 5-6: "For in this manner, in former times [reaching backwards], the holy women who trusted in God 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."
 3. Jewish women would always look back to the heroines of their past, like Ruth (see Ruth 3:11) and the Proverbs 31 woman.
 4. At the time Peter was writing, he was basically saying, "Hey, look to gals like Sarah, not Cleopatra! Look to biblical role models."
 5. We should follow suit as people who take all their cues from the Bible.
 - a. The Bible is useful to teach us whatever is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right (See 2 Timothy 3:16).
 6. Other books may give you information or inspiration, but the Bible provides transformation.
 7. Why did Sarah call Abraham *lord*?

- a. *Lord* is not just a term of deity, but of respect—like *sir*; I respect you; I honor you; I submit to you.
- b. Peter uses Sarah and Abraham's marriage as an example; their marriage was not perfect: He made some bad decisions and she had to go along with them (see Genesis 12).

III. Closing

- A. This message is a call to focus on the hidden person of the heart
 1. Choose good character, not just good cosmetics
 2. Adorn yourself with gentleness, not just jewelry
 3. Let your "bling" be goodness, not gold
- B. "Which is very precious in the sight of God" (v. 4); God is watching you.
 1. If we lived under that awareness, most of our problems would go away

Figures referenced: Zig Ziglar, John Piper, William Barclay, Augustine

Cross references: Genesis 12, Ruth 3:1, Luke 15:22, 2 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 7:14, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 1:23

Topic: Marriage

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