

5 HOPE VS. DISRESPECT

3¹ Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. 4 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. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers

Unlike [Ephesians 5:21-33](#), which addresses **Christian** husbands and wives, v1-6 address wives whose husbands may “not believe the word” (v1). Christian husbands are addressed only in v7.

1. What are Christian husbands commanded to do in v7 and why? How can men fail to do this today?
2. Now, if your husband doesn't believe the word, you can't point him to the word in v7! What response to a husband who may not believe is commended by v1-2? How does this relate to last week's passage (especially 2:22-23)?
3. In Peter's day, one way for a woman to get back at her husband was by dressing in a way that showed she was available to other men. How does Peter address this in v3-6?
4. How could this response hopefully affect a non-believing husband? (v1-2) How does this relate to last week's passage, especially 2:12)?
5. Tragically, some men who claim to be Christian have tried to use this passage to make their wives submit to abuse*. Why is that an abuse of this passage?
6. Both v1 and v7 begin “in the same way”, referencing Christ's example in last week's passage. How could you be more Christ-like in your closest relationships?

***MPC condemns all domestic abuse and we do not encourage women to stay in situations that are unsafe. If this study raises any issues for you personally, or concerning someone you know, please ask one of the MPC ministry team for help.**