



The Way to a Man's Heart
1 Peter 3:1-6
Study Guide

1. Peter continues to address the various people groups in the church. After having encouraged slaves with the example of Christ in unjust suffering, Christian wives are given needed counsel. After you have read verses 1 to 6, what would you say is the basic emphasis here? Why do you think Christian wives with non-Christian husbands are singled out rather than the reverse? Would there be any difference in emphasis if it were Christian husbands and unsaved wives?
2. The wife's submission to her husband is immediately stated. What does this mean? Are women required to be subordinate to men in general? Peter says that unsaved husbands "may be won without a word." What does this mean? Is there ever a time and place for a Christian wife to share the gospel with her unsaved husband? What kind of behavior does Peter single out as being particularly effective in gaining the attention of a non-Christian? Through the use of a good commentary determine the meaning of the words "chaste and respectful behavior." Do you know of any situations where the character of a Christian was instrumental in bringing someone to salvation in Christ?
3. Why do you think Peter contrasts the value of inner beauty with outer beauty? What kind of value might a woman place upon nice clothes, expensive jewelry, and her general physical appearance? Do you think these things are being condemned as sinful? Explain the significance of "let not" (v. 3) and "let it be" (v. 4).
4. What is a "gentle (Matt. 5:5; 11:29; 21:5; Gal. 5:23; 6:1; Jas. 3:13) and quiet spirit?" What would this kind of woman look like in her everyday relationships? What would you expect to see? This kind of behavior is said to be "precious in the sight of God." Why?
5. For support of Peter's admonition he refers to "holy women" in the Old Testament. Who are some of these godly women? Sarah is selected for special attention (Isa. 51:2; Gal. 4:22-26). What qualities can you identify in Sarah's life that make her exemplary to Christian women? Why would a believing wife married to an unbelieving husband have a special struggle with fear (v. 6)? What is the antidote to crippling fear?
6. As you conclude this study, think of some Christian women who have unsaved husbands. Pray for them. How could this passage (3:1-6) help any Christian who is in regular contact with unbelievers? Is there something in your own life that could be stumbling block to a non-Christian who knows you well?