

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Peter 3:1-6**.
- B. Tonight, **God's Woman of Valor: The Xian Example**.

I. WEDLOCK OR DEADLOCK?

- A. It would seem that there are more and more materials available on marriage and family, but we also have more marital problems and divorce.
- B. Even, given the situation where both partners are Xians, is no guarantee that the marriage will succeed.
- C. Today, very few marriages are what one would call successful. Many marriages are poor ones where the adults are living together only because their children.
- D. So instead of deadlock, Peter gives some very powerful suggestions to the women on how to improve one's wedlock, and even be evangelistic in the process.

II. EXAMPLE MEANS OBLIGATION.

- A. See **1Pet. 3:1**.
- B. The words *in the same way or in like manner* refer us back to 1Pet. 2:21-25 and X.
- C. In that text, Jesus was submissive and obedient to His Father's will. Ladies, you have an obligation to be submissive and obedient to Jesus in all things.
- D. Notice the following in 1Pet. 2:21-25:
 - 1. Jesus was submissive and obedient **with His life** (2:22a).
His life was one characteristic of doing good.
 - 2. Jesus was submissive and obedient **with His tongue** (2:22b, 23ab).
He knew when to speak up and when to shut up.
 - 3. Jesus was submissive and obedient **with His attitude** (2:23c).
He chose to trust God rather than himself.
- E. Subjection (to one's husband) does not mean the wife is inferior to him (Gen. 1:28; Gal. 3:28).
- F. Submission has to do w/order and authority. For example:
 - 1. The average Roman slave was a better person than his/her master, but they had to remain under the authority of their master.
 - 2. A "buck private" may be a better person than a five-star general, but he/she is still a buck private.
- G. Marriages work when both partners realize they are under authority. The man is under the authority of X, and the woman is under the authority of X and her husband. Submission should not be thought of as being inferior, rather it is to be viewed as one's position in which they can do the most for God.
- H. I can do the most for my wife when I serve her, not when I boss her.
I can receive more from my wife when I serve her, not when I boss her.
Ladies you can do the most for your husbands when you serve them. And...
You can receive the greatest benefits from X and your husband, when you serve them.
- I. Ladies, increase your valor (worth) by being a good example.

III. EXAMPLE MEANS OPPORTUNITY.

- A. See **1Pet. 3:1, 2**.
- B. This opportunity is to do evangelism to the unsaved in your family.
- C. This does not mean that a Xian wife should give in to her unsaved husband in order to get him to do what she desires. That's selfish manipulation.
- D. Rather, it means the following:

1. The unXian husband must hear the word to be saved (Jn. 5:24; Rom. 10:17).
 2. It is to convert without a lot of talk or a lot of speaking.
 3. No preaching, no nagging, and no unnecessary pleading or begging.
(Because you're family, your advice is not wanted or appreciated.)
- E. It is very possible that a Xian wife will do this and the husband never does become a faithful Xian. But the point is still valid, this is the best way for you as a Xian to act if you ever hope to be part of your non-Xian husband's conversion.
- F. Example is always more powerful than command. It's easy to reject or rationalize a command with many excuses. But a day-in, day-out, example of Xian living through good times and bad, etc., will be effective and powerful in proclaiming the message.
- G. When the example does not equal the message, non-believers will throw out the message. Therefore, support the power of the message by being a good example. In this way they will have to "come to grips" with the message, because you are consistently living it.
- H. Ladies, increase your valor (worth) by being a good example.

IV. EXAMPLE MEANS ORNAMENTATION.

- A. See **1Pet. 3:3-6**.
- B. There is a big difference between glamour and beauty:
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| Glamour is artificial and external... | Beauty is real and internal. |
| Glamour is something you put on and take off... | Beauty is always present. |
| Glamour is corruptible, it decays and fades... | Beauty is incorruptible, growing w/the years. |
| Glamour has to do with prices... | Beauty deals in values. |
- C. Every woman should dress nicely and not neglect herself in her appearance. She should be "up-to-date" and modest in how she presents herself. The passage simply means she is not *majoring* on being a "fashion plate" to "keep up with the crowd." In 3:3, I believe Peter to be saying that God's woman is not a gaudy display of jewelry, hair, and fashion. Rather, her beauty comes from the character of her life.
- D. I have said for years that "beauty is only skin deep, but ugly runs all the way through." When you are ugly on the inside, it doesn't make any difference what you look like on the outside. And as far as God is concerned if you are beautiful on the inside, it makes little difference what you look like on the outside.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. God needs faithful women to do His will.
- B. Ladies, increase your valor (worth) by being a good example. It means:
1. Wedlock and not deadlock.
 2. Obligation to follow X.
 3. Opportunity to preach the word.
 4. Ornamentation of true beauty.
- C. Next lesson: God's Woman of Valor--The Xian Deaconess.
- D. To become a woman of valor, one must obey X.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.