

## "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

## 1 Peter 3

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The Apostle Peter is bold as a lion in instructing those scattered and being persecuted concerning how they are to live life as followers of Jesus in every arena of life and that begins in the home. First, to wives, he says to them that they have a role in the home and they are to get in line with the proper God given Biblical order. The word *submissive* in 3:1 is the same word throughout the New Testament for submission. It is the word *ὑποτάσσω, hupotassó*, pronounced (*hoop-ot-as'-so*), *hypotássō* (from *hypó*, "under" and *tássō*, "arrange") – properly, "under God's arrangement. to place or rank under, to subject, middle voice to obey. In this verse, the middle voice is used, so normally this word would be translated obey. This has nothing to do with one's value whether male or female. Male and female, men and women are equal but differ in God's role assignment in the home and church.

Peter goes on to make an illuminating statement about those women who have unbelieving husbands. ***"In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your***

***pure and reverent lives."*** (I Peter 3:1-2) Peter encouraged the godly women in the churches throughout the Greco-Roman world of the first century to speak to their husbands about the gospel message, but once they understood it, the women were not to keep telling them the same message over and over again, which can become nagging. The problem is not knowledge on the part of the man. It is that they have a heart that is hard and unbelieving. The Apostle instructs them that if indeed the man is not won by "The Word" the only way the man/husband will be won over to be a follower of Jesus is without "a word" by the godly submissive, reverent wife. He goes on to say that even though beauty is desirable, it is not outward beauty that wins the husband's heart, it is the inward beauty of a quiet and reverent spirit! He goes on to give the example of Sarah, the wife of Abraham. Sarah called Abraham "Lord" which is a term of reverence. It is like saying "Mr. Abraham." This does not mean if you call your lost husband Mr. that he will fall down and become a follower of Jesus. What it does mean is that God will honor that and begin to deal with the husband's heart. Yes, there are admonitions, instructions, and commands to the husbands. You will have to listen to the Podcast to get those.

### Prayer and Action Steps

***Lord, thank you that you have given us instructions and divine wisdom as to how to reach the heart of a man through the woman he loves. Grant godly men and women the desire to walk in obedience and trust your word to be true.***

***Amen!***