



ABOUT “SCATTERED”

“Peter ... to God’s elect, strangers in the world, scattered ...” 1 Peter 1

Scattered is a series of Bible Studies you can do alone at home, or with others in a group. They don't depend on a leader or someone affirming the right answer. The title of the series comes from Peter's addressing his letter to "*strangers in the world, scattered throughout*" the world. Christians will always be scattered in this world in all sorts of ways. Writing the series started during the Covid-19 lockdowns when we were as isolated as if we had been scattered. But Peter highlights the fact that it is our separation *to Christ* that separates *us from the world*. So he sees Christians as scattered strangers struggling in an alien world, and sets out to encourage us to live faithful and holy lives in Christ.

INTRODUCTION TO 1 PETER 3:1-7

Peter concludes this section on submission by discussing marriage. Before we look at that though, what has this to do with those who are not married and are not planning to be married? Lots! Marriage is a fundamental institution given by God at creation. That means we should all understand it. It is a biblical institution under attack. That means we need to be able to defend it. It is basic to the life of those around us. That means we need to be able to understand and support their way of life. It is an institution that is constantly under pressure. That means we need to protect and encourage our married friends. But above all, as explained in Ephesians 5:22-33, it is designed by God to picture the relationship of Christ (the Bridegroom) to his church (his bride). That means we are all have an investment in it.

The idea of wives submitting to their husbands is not popular today. On the one hand, the feminism of the last 100 years or so has made the concept obnoxious to many; and on the other hand, the all too common abuse of women by men in general and husbands in particular has been just as objectionable. Sadly, both perversions of marriage have found their way into the contemporary Church, often with “biblical” justifications Satanically promoted.

So let's be clear as we go into this study:

1. The oppression, abuse and denigration of women by men, and especially by husbands, is an appalling evil.
2. Beginning with the first married couple (Genesis 1:27; 2:18-24), God has unequivocally established the roles in marriage of loving leadership by husbands and loving submission by wives.

This is linked to but does not exhaust description of the God-given distinctions in biology and gender roles established at creation between male and female, and expressed in godliness in life and the church. But that is for another study!

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SCATTERED #8 1 Peter 3:1-7

GETTING STARTED

Please remember that this is God's Word. God used Peter to write God's words in God's way for us. So

1. Pray, asking God to give you his Spirit so that you will honour him, understand his word, and learn how to live better for Jesus.
2. Read the passage listed above for this study. What is it mainly about?
3. Now discuss/think about/answer the questions that follow.

CHOSEN TO BE A WIFE

1. According to verse 1, which women are to submit to which men? What does this reveal about the relationship between men and women in general?
2. What in Genesis 1:27 and 2:18-24 shows that "submission" of a wife is not merely about obeying, and the leadership of the husband is not merely about "deciding"?
3. Verse 1 says that the submission of wives is to be "in the same way." In the same way as what?
4. In the second part of verse 1, aware that many women have unbelieving husbands, Peter explains how those men might be "won over."
 - a. Peter uses a very deliberate pun (a pun is a tricky use of words to make a point. In this case he uses the word, "word," with two related but contrasting meanings to make a point.). What is the contrast and what point does he make?
 - b. What are husbands to be "won over" to, and what will "win them over"?
 - c. According to verse 2, what two attributes, characterise the life that wins without words?
 - d. What principle in verses 1 and 2 applies in other situations?
 - e. What is the context (1 Peter 2:11-3:1) that helps decide when to be silent and when to speak?
5. Lists the things in verses 3 & 4 that should not be a source of beauty and things that should be.
 - a. What makes these issues for women in contrast to men?
 - b. How does Peter categorise the two contrasting lists of "beauty" in verses 3 and 4?
 - c. How do the categories of 1 Peter 3:3,4 align with the categories of Galatians 5:16-26?
 - d. From this can you identify principles by which women can make choices about dress and adornment that either deface or enhance their true beauty?

Peter has given significant attention to what makes women in general and wives in particular truly beautiful. This has significance for married and unmarried women, *and for men!* Please read **the Additional Note #1 "Beautiful Women"** linked to this study: <https://tinyurl.com/vxgazhe5>.

6. In Ephesians 5:22-24, Paul gives another reason for wives to submit to their husbands. What does this teach about the dignity of true, godly submission?
7. In verses 5 & 6 Peter refers to women of the past making themselves beautiful through submission. What were they hoping for in doing this, and can you think of examples from the Old Testament?
8. Also in verses 5 & 6, Peter says that wives who submit to their husbands in this way are true daughters of Sarah. What's so great about being a daughter of Sarah? (Isaiah 52:1,2 might help.)

CHOSEN TO BE A HUSBAND

9. Verse 7 tells husbands that they are to be considerate "in the same way." In the same way as what?
10. According to verse 7, what distinguishes the godly husband from the godly manager or slave owner?
11. What, in verse 7, makes it clear that wives and husbands share the same dignity before God?
12. What is the outcome of husbands being considerate as they live with their wives?

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

One of the most difficult, most misunderstood, and most abused statements in 1 Peter is his reference in verse 7 to wives being the "weaker vessel" (or as in a particularly poor translation in the NIV, the "weaker partner".) Please take time to read the *Additional Note #2 "Weaker Vessels"* linked to this study: <https://tinyurl.com/y6frgtns>. But before you do, note that wives are to be "respected" (NIV) or "honoured" (ESV) for this weakness: so it can't be a deficiency or failing, but something godly wives are to be commended for. What, in terms of this passage, could that be?

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13. In Ephesians 6:25-33 Paul *commands* husbands to love their wives. Although love will normally involve an emotive aspect, according to these verses, what characterises godly love?
 14. What in these verses shows that godly love is what one does irrespective of what one feels? (Compare how Paul describes the love Christ for the church with a husband's love for his wife.)

CHOSEN TO UPHOLD MARRIAGE FOR CHRIST

15. In the light of these verses: What can you thank God for? What can you pray for others? What can you trust God for?
16. In the light of these verses, what changes do you need to make: In your faith? In your worship? In your attitude? In your life?