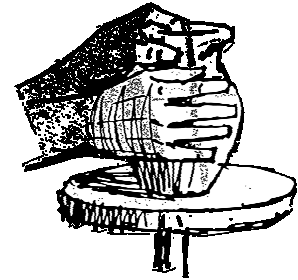


His Workmanship: Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



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Isaiah 64:8

The Beautiful Faith of Fearless Submission, by John Piper

"Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct..." 1 Pet 3:1-6.

What does it mean for a wife to be submissive to her husband? Men and women, single and married, old and young (including children) should hear this as a call to something strong and noble and beautiful and dignified and worthy of a woman's highest spiritual and moral efforts. To set the stage for that impact, notice two phrases: 1) the word *own* in "*your own husbands*." That means that there is a uniquely fitting submission to a woman's own husband that is not fitting in relation to other men. Women are not called to submit to all men the way they do to their husband. 2) Then notice the phrase at the beginning: "*Likewise, wives*." This means that the call for a wife's submission is part of a larger call for submission from all Christians in different ways.

Peter had admonished us *all* to be subject, for the Lord's sake, to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as set by him, 1 Pet 2:13-17. In other words, keep speed limits, pay taxes,

and be respectful toward policemen and senators. Then he had addressed the household servants (*oiketai*) in the church and admonished them to be submissive to their masters with all respect, both to the kind and to the overbearing, 2:18-25. Next, he instructed the wives to be submissive to their husbands, including the husbands who are unbelieving, 3:1-6. This is our focus today. Then, he instructed husbands to live considerately with their wives as fellow heirs of the grace of life, v. 7. Finally, he told the whole church to have unity and sympathy and love and tenderheartedness and humility toward one another, and not to return evil for evil—in other words, to submit to each other and serve each other, 3:8-12. So, as we see in Ephesians 5:19ff, submission is a wider virtue for all of us to pursue, and it has its unique and fitting expressions in various relationships. Today we focus on the relationship of a wife to her husband. What does submission look like there?

I. Peter's Powerful Portrait of the Roots of Womanhood. Peter paints a powerful portrait of womanhood. Deep strong roots of womanhood grow underneath the fruit of submission. It's the roots that make submis-

sion the strong and beautiful thing that it is. "*This is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,*" v. 5.

A. The Deepest Root: Hope in God.

The deepest root of womanhood is hope in God. "*Holy women who hoped in God.*" A woman Christian does not put her hope in her husband or in getting a husband. She does not put her hope in her looks. She puts her hope in the promises of God. "*Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come,*" Pr 31:25. She laughs at everything the future will bring and might bring, because she hopes in God. She looks away from the troubles and miseries and obstacles of life that seem to make the future bleak, and she focuses her attention on the sovereign power and love of God Who rules in heaven and does on earth whatever He pleases. She knows her Bible, and she knows her theology of the sovereignty of God, and she knows His promise that He will be with her to help and strengthen her no matter what. This is the deep, unshakable root of womanhood. Peter makes it explicit in verse 5. He was not talking about just any women. He was talking about women with unshak-

continued on p. 2

“Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble,’ ” —1 Peter 5:5 *continued from p. 1*

able Biblical roots in the sovereign goodness of God—“*holy women who hope in God.*”

B. Fearlessness. After hope in God, a woman Christian’s hope has produced fearlessness. So the holy women of old hoped in God, v. 5, and then they are Sarah’s daughters by this hope. “*And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.*” v. 6. This portrait of women Christians is marked first by hope in God and then by what grows out of that hope, namely, fearlessness. She does not fear the future; she laughs at the future. The presence of hope in the invincible sovereignty of God drives out fear, worry. To say it more carefully and realistically, the daughters of Sarah fight the anxiety that rises in their hearts. They wage war on fear, and they defeat it with hope in the promises of God.

Mature women Christians know that following Christ will mean suffering. But they believe the promises, such as, “*But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled.*” 1 Pet 3:14, and “*Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.*” 1 Pet 4:19. That is what women Christians do: They entrust their souls to a faithful Creator. They hope in God. And they triumph over fear.

C. A Focus on Internal Adornment. This leads to a third feature of Peter’s portrait of womanhood, a focus on internal adornment, rather than external. “*This is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves.*” 1 Pet 3:5. This adornment refers back to what is described in vs. 3-4: “*Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorn-*

ing be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.” We know this does not mean that all jewelry and all hair styling is excluded, because then all clothing would be excluded as well, because it says, “*Don’t let your adorning be...the clothing you wear.*” What Peter meant: Don’t focus your main attention and effort on how you look on the outside; focus it on the beauty that is inside. Exert more effort and be more concerned with inner beauty than outer beauty, specifically “*a meek and quiet spirit.*” When a woman puts her hope in God and not in her husband and not in her looks, and when she overcomes fear by the promises of God, this will have an effect on her heart: It will give her an inner tranquility. That’s what Peter meant by “*the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.*” v. 4.

D. A Unique Submission. That leaves one more feature of this portrait of womanhood to see. First, there is hope in God. That leads then to fearlessness in the face of whatever the future may bring. Then that leads to an inner tranquility and meekness. And, finally, that spirit expresses itself in a unique kind of submissiveness to her husband. “*Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands... This is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands.*” 1 Pet 3:1, 5. That is a brief look at the portrait of the woman Peter had in mind when he called a woman to be submissive to her husband. Unshakable hope in God. Courage and fearlessness in the face of any future. Quiet tranquility of soul. Humble submission to her husband’s leadership. It is a great sadness that in our modern society—even in the

church—the different and complementary roles of Biblical headship for the husband and submission for the wife are despised or simply passed over. Some people write them off as sub-Christian cultural leftovers from the first century. Others distort and misuse them—I met a husband who believed that submission meant his wife should not go from one room to the other in the house without asking his permission. That kind of pathological distortion makes it easier for people to dispense with these Biblical texts. But the truth of headship and submission is truly beautiful. When you see it lived out with the mark of Christ’s majesty on it—the mutuality of servanthood without cancelling the reality of headship and submission—it is a wonderful and deeply satisfying drama.

II. The Goal of Submission: Everlasting Holy Joy. Marriage is not mainly about staying in love. It’s about covenant keeping. The main reason it is about covenant keeping is that God designed the relationship between a husband and his wife to represent the relationship between Christ and the church. This is the deepest meaning of marriage. That is why ultimately the roles of headship and submission are so important. If our marriages are going to tell the truth about Christ and His church, we cannot be indifferent to the meaning of headship and submission. God’s purpose for the church—and for the wife who represents it—is her everlasting holy joy. Christ died for us to bring that about.

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Next week: What submission is not and what it is—an attitude, inclination, and disposition to honor, follow, and yield.



Psalm 133:1

God makes my heart clean in 2015 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

ISIS Beheadings, from p. 4
producing news, kids need to be told what they are ready for. What tends to impact the readiness in a child for news, such as Christians being persecuted, is not only age, but also personality and overall life experiences. "Know your children and their frame of reference. "Some children are naturally more resilient, mature and 'news ready.' Some children have experienced some form of persecution and can relate through life experience. In general, however, children 8 and older tend to be able to have more cognitive and life-enhancing discussions about difficult and painful life events." See age-specific guidelines at <http://media.fo-cusonthefamily.com/free-downloads/pdf/talk-to-your-kids.pdf>.

Dr. Jared Pingleton, clinical psychologist, says, "It is very frightening and unsettling to a child to become aware that his world is not safe, secure, and stable... But we should not be alarmed when we experience uncertainties and threats. After all, as Jesus predicted: 'In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world,' Jn 16:33." Persecution is never fair or right, Pingleton says, "Yet Scripture is filled with ways to be mature and proactive, not passive and reactive, in response to suffering." He encourages parents to use Biblical stories as teachable moments. After all, stories of people hurting others because of religious beliefs are not new. Acknowledge that God does not always intervene, but that He has promised never to leave or forsake us, Heb 13:5. Confidently assure your children that God will always comfort and sustain us. Nothing can help them feel more safe

Discipleship Here At Home

Travel DeWayne Howell to San Francisco M-F for work.

and protected. Proactively involve and empower your kids.

2. We can also pray for the Christians suffering persecution in the Middle East and Africa. For various historical and cultural reasons, Christians in the Middle East have placed great importance on the proper burial of their dead, but because ISIS threw bodies of the 21 young believers into the sea, the loved ones who remain are enduring added dimensions to their grief. Sami has been given an opportunity to provide Biblical encouragement to the grieving family members by writing a special article for a widely circulated Coptic (orthodox) newspaper in Egypt. That these editors would ask Sami, an evangelical Christian, for his insight means God is working to unite believers. That is no small thing. Please pray for wisdom for Sami, that the Holy Spirit would comfort the loved ones left behind, and that God's people in Egypt may come together in truth.

3. While the White House and other U.S. leaders have spoken out against these atrocities, some have also been reluctant to publicly recognize that this violence has been religiously motivated. Overall, the response has been tepid, especially when seen in contrast to the responses by the Jordanian and Egyptian governments. Please pray for the eyes of our leaders to be opened to the danger ISIS represents for Christians around the world, and pray they would have wisdom to know how to respond properly. Indeed, it is good to pray and hope for justice: "When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, 'O Sovereign Lord, holy and pure, how long before You will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'" Rev 6:9-10.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- Ed Fink—home after hospital visit last week; prostate cancer; treatment for brain tumors
- Pat Wilkes—surgery 3/2 for torn shoulder tendon
- Bill Dennis—moved to Bear Creek Rehab Ctr, 150 Spring St, Morrison 80465, 720-550-4695 following infected knee drainage; pseudo-gout
- Maggie Tope—recovering from tonsillectomy
- Christine Adams's husband Chuck—shingles; PRAISE: 9 mo-old grandson, Ezekiel—returned home to his mother Kayla Knighten
- Sandra Perry—kidney failure, may need dialysis or transplant; heart valve issues recently diagnosed; neuropathy from diabetes
- Eric Perry—PRAISE: slight soreness after run over by car last week
- Tyler Huelsman—car accident; asks prayers for spiritual strength
- Kaylee Chavez—age 10, at St. Jude's in Memphis for brain cancer treatment; donate at www.youcaring.com, type her name at top
- Judy Strand—hep C; approved for liver transplant
- Chris Bennett, former member—all tools for biz stolen; recovering from fall, fractured pelvis
- Buford Wrath, Cheryl Reames's dad—stroke, complicated by Parkinson's; in CO Springs
- Sylvia Chapman, Brett's grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo
- Judy Sartin—cold; rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis; arthritis
- Brittany Tope's mother—breast cancer in spine; pain in broken ribs which tumor has injured; grandmother—on dialysis
- Kim Howell's niece Tonya Robison—delivered 32-week, 2 lb, 5 oz Malachi Taylor Robison Fri; he will be in NICU in Louisville, KY, at least a month
- Kenny Boyd's coworker Kim Phillips—asks our prayers for heart problems
- Rick Robbins, friend of Howells—brain surgery

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

- Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr; Tim Huelsman—asthma
 - Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
 - Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
 - Jonathan Hadders—RA
 - Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome
 - Hannah Huelsman—polycythemia, thickening of blood; heart murmur, acid reflux, chest pain
 - Kirk Johnson—MS
 - Menards—aging; Lloyd, diabetes, weak; Virginia, macular degeneration; high BP
 - Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
 - Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness
- Birthday** The Campbells, Monica and Brandon Thompson will be in IL Thur-Mon for Ruth Campbell's 90th birthday. Cards to: 1100 N. 15th St, Pekin, IL 61554



Exposing current thoughts & trends *persecution*

What the Media Isn't Reporting On the ISIS Beheading of 21 Christians *by James Daly*

The tragic images are almost impossible to behold and process. There on a Libyan shore stand 21 young Egyptian Christians, each clad in an orange jumpsuit. Behind each man is a hooded radical Islamist, holding a knife.

If American Christians were ever tempted to believe martyrs are only people we read about in the Bible and history books, the 21 men who were brutally beheaded because they called Jesus Christ their Savior remind us nothing could be further from the truth. Each of these men is a hero of the faith.

Not all of the facts are being reported by news and media outlets. In fact, NBC News devoted ten times more coverage to its 40th anniversary of Saturday Night Live than to this atrocity.

Sami Yacoub is based in Egypt for the radio show Focus on the Family. Here's what Sami shared:

- These young Christians were in their early to mid-20s. They went to Libya in search of work to help feed their families living under the poverty line in Egypt.
- In the days and weeks leading up to their deaths, their ISIS captors tortured them and attempted to persuade them to deny Jesus in return for living.
- They all refused to deny Christ.
- They all died on that beach singing songs to Jesus.

Yet, these men were not mere victims. They are "more than conquerors," Rm 8:37, whose ultimate sacrifice is a powerful testimony to their faith in Jesus. *"The gospel message of salvation rises out of this suffering and persecution,"* said Sami. *"As the Middle East was the birthplace of Christianity [sic], the torch of revival that once burned bright for Christ can once again be lit by the sparks created by ISIS."*

We've seen God use persecution to bring people to Him before, and we pray it happens again. In the meantime, though, through all the tears and heartache, what do we do now? Christians in the West can help their Middle East brothers and sisters, can talk to their children, and can contact leaders about what's happening.

1. It is prudent for parents to protect their children from exposure to images or reports of religious persecution. A discussion with children about the persecuted church should not be candy-coated, but it does need to be age-appropriate. Daniel Huerta, a licensed clinical social worker and counselor, cautions, *"Like with any potentially fear-*

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meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning

• **adult Bible class**, Lesson 4-5,
"I Have Become A Christian! Now
What?" Jim Reingrover

• **Sermon**, "Peter's Epistle to Westside:
1 Peter 3, Submission," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

• **Lessons from the Life of Jesus**, Kory
Tope

Wednesday night class: Daniel: Determined to Walk with God, chapter 8



A short meeting of volunteers for the summer Vacation Bible School will follow this morning's worship service. Jonathan Hadders will introduce the theme, plan, and service roles available for before and during June 8-11..