

¹ 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, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—⁴ but let your adorning 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. ⁵ For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. (1 Pet. 3:1-6)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. The questions below are meant to be a tool to help you get into God’s Word, but don’t feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. What are some of the struggles of the heart when it comes to submission? What idols might keep us from wanting to submit? How do we fight those struggles or idols?
3. How does the world define beauty and what’s worth admiring? How does the Bible define what is most beautiful and admirable? Which “vision” is more compelling? What is the standard for beauty in your life?
4. As both men and women, in what ways do we focus too much on the externals tied to clothing, possessions, looks, wealth, status, etc. rather than on following and looking like Christ? What problems do we encounter when we try to define ourselves—or when others see us in a certain way—primarily through externals rather than Christ-likeness?
5. In your own words, what does hope in God mean? How have you seen this lived out in others’ lives? How does a spouse hope in God in a marriage that isn’t perfect or when the other spouse isn’t pursuing God?
6. Read Eph. 5:22-24 and Col. 3:18. How would you describe biblical submission of a wife to her husband?

7. Refer to Col. 3:18-25 again. Why is it significant that the command for wives to “submit” in 3:18 is different than the command for children and employees to “obey” (3:20, 22)? How might the relationship between a husband and wife differ from the relationships of parent to child and employer to employee?
8. Whether you’re a single, married, divorced, or widowed woman, how might you apply this text this week? How can you pray for and encourage one another in various circumstances and stages?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

For those of you who are parents or have young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together. You can also use the “Kid’s notes” that will be available each Sunday as another tool to encourage our children in their growth and discipleship through the Word.

1. Why does God care more about “the hidden person of the heart” (3:4) than external things such as what we wear, own, or look like? How might we reflect God’s heart by looking more at other people’s hearts rather than their appearance?
2. Boys, what characteristics should you look for in a wife? Girls, what are the characteristics you want to be true of you as a follower of Christ?

RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

This passage talks about the characteristics of a woman of God. For a woman who desires to follow God, hope in God, have a gentle and quiet spirit, be fearless, and submit to leadership, what do these characteristics look like in both marriage and singleness? What is one characteristic that you can grow in?

As a Small Group, encourage each other to be wives and husbands who hope in God. If you have singles in your group, encourage them not to settle for less than the standards God has given, and encourage them to continue to grow in these characteristics. Part of being a Small Group is encouraging—both in your gathering and during the week—one another to be faithful to God as husbands, wives, or singles.