

Series: Resident Aliens: A Study of 1 Peter
Lesson: 1 Peter 3:1-7 Holiness in Marriage
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1. Women were viewed as second rate in the ancient world.
2. A “submissive” wife in the ancient world would adopt her husband’s religion.
3. An unbeliever would tend to view his Christian wife as not submissive.
4. Peter presumes Christian slaves will be punished for doing good. Although possible also for Christian wives, he hopes non-Christian spouses will be converted by doing good.
5. Generally, the good that wives should do is the same all Christians are called to do. All should live in purity and reverence.
6. Specifically, the wives are to beautify themselves with that which is imperishable, a quality of all God’s children (1:23).

This includes a gentle and quiet spirit.

This doesn’t include gold which perishes (1:7, 18).

7. In the ancient world, a married woman with fancy clothes, braided hair, and costly jewelry would have been considered unfaithful.
8. Christian husbands honor their wives.
9. Our relationship with God depends on our relationships with others.

Travel Tip #8:

We have already seen how the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus have influenced Peter and surface in this letter. Another possible source of influence should be considered. Although probably less than half of the New Testament had been written when Peter composed this letter, he may have been aware of some of those writings. We know that he made extensive use of Jude in his second letter. It may very well be that he was familiar with Paul’s letter to the Romans. (This may help explain why Peter considered some of Paul’s letters hard to understand, 2 Peter 3:15-16.) Peter writes from Rome and could have seen the letter there. Compare the next reading, 1 Peter 3:8-17, with Romans 12:14-21. What parallels do you see?