

Canceled
A Roadmap for Living In Exile
Submission in Marriage – Part 1
1 Peter 3:1-6

Introduction: Before we get started, it is essential to understand that although there are certainly a few evangelistic books in the Bible, that is, books written with a nonbeliever in mind (i.e. the Gospels); the vast majority of it is very clearly written to those who have repented, believed in and committed to follow Jesus. Its why Paul wrote this to Timothy,

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Therefore, as we dig into what Peter is going to say about marriage, those of us who claim to follow Jesus are doing so with a belief that the Bible is our way of knowing who God is, what He has done and is doing, and what He expects of us. We are doing so from the standpoint that the Bible teaches us how to prosper in the life exclusively found in Christ. Its why Jesus said,

“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:28)

Furthermore, I’m not here to teach a contemporary secular view of marriage. My job as a minister of the Gospel is to teach the Bible, and as such I must teach what the Bible says marriage is and how the Bible says it works. What I say may deeply offend some people in our culture, however, as Christians, we believe we are supposed to obey God and that absolutely means obeying the Scriptures even if the lost world around us maligns us because of it (more on that later in Peter!).

On that, it is essential for the church to understand that there is no Biblical expectation nor mandate, for a nonbelieving society to obey the Scriptures. As a matter of fact, the Bible teaches lost society is incapable of it. Therefore, what we are going to study is not meant to be what the church should expect those far from God to do, but rather what the church should expect those who claim to be followers of Jesus to do! Demanding or even expecting a world far from God to act like they are near to God is neither Biblical nor logical. What we are studying was unmistakably written specifically to and for Christians.

So with that, it has been said that Vince Lombardi, one of the most famous football coaches in history, would start every new season with the statement, “This is a Football.” Therefore, before I get into the specific subject matter on marriage that Peter wrote, we need to first remind ourselves of the foundation he was writing. In Matthew 19 Jesus was being questioned by some men who were part of a very powerful religious organization called the Pharisees. They were attempting to trick Jesus into saying something they could use against Him and so they presented Him with a specific question related to divorce. But, likely to their surprise, Jesus responded with a “This is a football” type of statement. He

concisely and precisely laid out the fundamentals of what God created marriage to be. Quoting Genesis 2:24, the very first book in the Bible, Jesus said,

4 "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."
(Matthew 19:4-6)

Everything the Bible teaches about marriage literally begins here. Its why its first found in the second chapter of the very first book in the Bible! Nothing else about what the Bible teaches about marriage can be properly interpreted or applied if you don't interpret and apply it from the context of what the Bible teaches marriage to be. If you don't know what a football is, then you certainly can't understand anything else about the game!

I'm not going to spend any time commenting on these, but I do want to make sure you have the fundamental elements of what Jesus said about marriage in front of you. I want to make sure we know what a football is before we start talking about how to win the game, that is, that we all understand what the Bible calls marriage before we talk about how to prosper in it.

In Matthew 19:4-6 Jesus clarified 5 fundamental truths about marriage.

The first fundamental truth about marriage that Jesus clarified is that ...

- (1) Jesus defined marriage as the unique relationship created by God for a male and a female whereby the male serves as a husband in the relationship and a female serves as a wife. These roles are not assigned based on a person's interpretation of their gender but rather on their biological sex.**

Note: I'm not fussing at anybody, but rather making it clear that if you interpret what Jesus said through the contemporary debate over gender then you are completely misinterpreting and misapplying what He said. It would be as if you are taking instructions on how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and using them to cook a Ribeye steak.

The second fundamental truth about marriage that Jesus clarified is that ...

- (2) Jesus defined marriage as the unique relationship whereby a male and a female break from the authority and dependence of their parents to become a new and independent family. (Matthew 19:4-6)**

Note: People who fail to understand this truth will never experience a prosperous marriage. If you don't do this, you are fundamentally not forming a marriage relationship.

The third fundamental truth about marriage that Jesus clarified is that ...

- (3) **Jesus defined marriage as the unique relationship whereby a male and a female are so closely united that they are considered one. (Matthew 19:4-6)**

Note: This isn't codependency but unity. This comes out big in 1 Peter. If this isn't your goal in marriage, then your goal isn't marriage.

The fourth fundamental truth about marriage that Jesus clarified is that ...

- (4) **Husband and wife are not an identity, but rather a responsibility within the relationship. (Matthew 19:4-6)**

Note: If you view your identity as a husband or wife then you will TOTALLY misinterpret and misapply every teaching in the Bible on marriage. As we go through what Peter wrote, we are going to talk about this more.

The fifth fundamental truth about marriage that Jesus clarified is that ...

- (5) **Jesus declared that God is the creator and authority over marriage, therefore it will only prosper when it functions in the way He created it, and it can only be entered into and ended by His authority. (Matthew 19:4-6)**

Note: God made it, thus He's the one in charge of it. Because God created it, He logically then knows how He made it to work and prosper. The Bible makes it clear that death ends marriage. Because God is ultimately in charge of when we will die, he is in charge of when a marriage ends. In addition, Jesus and other Biblical authors clarify that God allows for divorce (the ending of a marriage) under certain circumstances - i.e., Adultery (Matthew 19:9), and Abandonment (1 Corinthians 7:15). One could certainly argue abuse is a Biblically ethical ground for divorce as well.

Those are the foundational truths about marriage in the Bible. Where those truths don't exist, marriage, as God created and defined it, doesn't exist. Society can apply the word marriage to whatever it wants, but from the church's perspective, we can't. The Bible is written for Christians!

Now, if you have your Bible, turn to 1 Peter chapter 3 and let's read the passage on marriage that we are going to spend the rest of today and next Sunday diving into. Everything you are about to read has to be interpreted and applied through the lens of the Biblical fundamentals of marriage that Peter is writing them from; that Peter heard Jesus Himself teach.

Will you stand with me in honor of the reading of God's Word.

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. 7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Peter 3:1-7)

Quickly, did you notice the word “likewise” appears before his instructions to wives and then again before his instructions to husbands! Peter uses it to link the context of what he is writing to Christian wives and husbands with the theme and focus of the previous verses. If you’ve been with us the last few weeks this theme and focus has been very clear – submission! Peter started this theme of submission when he wrote,

13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, (1 Peter 2:13)

The emperor was Nero! Nero was one of the most insane, unethical, and immoral emperors in Roman history, yet Peter made it abundantly clear that no matter what the authority structure is that Christians live in, they are to submit to that authority and that included the evil and unjust Emperor Nero! Just in case his readers didn’t understand what he meant in verse 13, he clarified it in verse 17,

17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (1 Peter 3:17)

He then transitioned to how we are to live submissively to authority in the workplace, whether that authority is good or bad. He wrote,

18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. (1 Peter 2:18)

Josh Sugg taught verses 18 through 25 last week and he did an amazing job at demonstrating what they were ultimately pointing us to. We are to respond to the unjust treatment we receive, that is the unjust suffering we endure from those who have positions of authority over us; not by fighting them, nor by running away from them (something an indentured servant wasn’t allowed to do), but rather by forgiving them so that we can endure the unjust suffering they are placing on us in a way that points them straight to Jesus!

Peter then transitions from this application of submission to giving instructions to husbands and wives. But he doesn't simply change subjects, rather he links what he says about husbands and wives to what he had just previously talked about – submission even in suffering! He does this by dropping that incredibly powerful word, “LIKEWISE” at the beginning of each. Did you see it in 3:1 and 3:7?

Therefore, everything Peter is telling us about submission in marriage builds on everything he just taught about the powerful effect and godliness of genuine and right submission in the workplace, culture, government, etc. Specifically, this week we are going to focus on what Peter wrote to the wives and then next week we are going to focus on what he said to husbands.

Proposition: 1 Peter 3:1-6 teaches two principles about a Christian wife's submission to her husband.

The first principle about a Christian wife's submission to her husband is that ...

- (1) A Christian wife's genuine submission to her husband is a massively effective way to positively influence his relationship with Christ. (3:1-2)**

Note: 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.

There are two components to this principle that we need to zero in on. The first component is that ...

A. In the context of the marriage, Christian wives are to live under the authority of their husband. This is the same submission Peter commands all Christians to have towards whatever human authority applies to them (2:13).

1. “1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands”

2. First, women are not commanded to be submissive to men, but rather a wife is commanded to be submissive to her husband. The idea that women are to live submissively to all men is a ridiculous misapplication of Scripture. For instance, prior to King Saul, Israel was led by judges. As such, in Judges chapter 4, Deborah was a prophetess and a Judge of Israel. She was clearly leading Israel spiritually and governmentally and as such she summoned a Jewish military general named Barak and instructed him to attack Sisera, the general of the army of Jabin, the king of Canaan. Under her orders, Barak raised an army of Israelites and defeated Sisera, which led to the destruction of Jabin. The point being that God did not create women to live in submission to men, but in the context of the marriage, the Bible

unanimously teaches that God instructs a wife to be submissive to her husband.

3. Second, and more to the point, submission means to be “under the authority” in the context of that authority. That is, when it comes to the entity of the family created by marriage, the husband is the leader of that entity, and the wife is therefore supposed to submit to his leadership as any Christian is to submit to whatever context of human authority they live under.
4. This also means a wife being subject to her husband has no more concept of her surrendering her identity to her husband than it does for servants to surrender their identity to their masters, or Christians to surrender their identity to Nero. The only one we surrender our identity to is God and by that we view ourselves how he views us; we define ourselves by how He defines us; and we find our sense of value and worth by what He says our sense of value and worth is. We are going to talk about this much more thoroughly in the second principal Peter teaches wives about submission, so for now I just wanted to clarify how insanely incorrect any application of Scripture is that would create a picture of a wife’s submission as that of an empty defeated vessel who lives her life as if her purpose and value in life is dependent on her husband (i.e., codependency).

The second component is the purpose ...

B. When a Christian wife’s submission to her husband is defined by her respectful and pure conduct it points her husband straight to Jesus!

1. **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.**
2. To be respectful is to honor somebody, if for no other reason than the position they hold. A Christian wife may not respect her husband’s relationship with God, but she needs to genuinely respect the position he holds as a husband and respect his identity as a man created by God. This is no different than what is expected of every Christian towards every person, i.e., “Honor everyone.” (1 Peter 2:17).
3. In addition, pure conduct not only implies conduct that’s clearly good in how it affects others, but it also means the motives of the conduct are without deceit. Pure conduct is neither immoral nor unethical. Pure conduct demonstrates the love of Christ and as such, it is for the genuine benefit of others.

4. So, putting that together, Peter tells wives to let their attitude, actions, and words demonstrate clear respect and honor for their husband, and in addition, to make sure these outwardly respectful attitudes, actions, and words are genuinely benefiting their husband for the right reasons; that they are coming from a heart of love for her husband and more importantly a heart in love with God (more on that in a minute).
5. Peter then adds an effect of this kind of behavior. If you will submit to your husband in this way, **“even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives.”**
6. It’s not an exclusive command to wives to act this way if they have a husband that refuses to obey the Word, but as an additional motive, Peter says to those that do, you can lead them to Jesus by acting this way!
7. Listen to what K.S. Wuest brought out in his commentary on this passage,
8. **“The word means literally in its verb form, “not to allow one’s self to be persuaded.” These husbands were of that obstinate, non-persuasable type that will not listen to reason. Their wives had often given them the gospel, but they had met it with stiff-necked obstinacy. Peter exhorts them, in view of their husbands’ obstinate rejection of the gospel, to stop talking about it, and just live a Christlike life before them.”**¹
9. So, the assumption Peter is making with his application is that these men already know the Gospel and are choosing to disobey it. You can’t obstinately resist something you don’t know. The words imply these husbands know the Gospel and what’s expected of those who profess to follow Christ, yet they refuse to do it. There can’t be anything more aggravating than somebody you love acting like a mule! It’s totally understandable why it would be tempting for a wife to shove or nag her husband into submitting to Jesus, but Peter says you need to lead him there, not shove him there; and the way to do that is not to preach at him more, but to live out the love of Christ towards him by your respectful and pure conduct!
10. This is totally consistent with what Peter wrote in the previous chapter,
11. **13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. (1 Peter 2:13-15)**

¹ Wuest, K. S. (1997). [*Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader*](#) (Vol. 11, pp. 72–73). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

12. The reason why genuine submissive, respectful and pure conduct is so powerful is because it comes from love. Love is the most massively influential force in the universe! We literally love and obey God not because of the presentations of His power over the laws of the Universe, nor even because we fear His judgements, but rather because we are blown away by how much He loves us! Its why John wrote,
13. **“10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ... 19 We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:10, 19)**
14. So, for a Christian wife to fulfill her purpose as a child of God in her marriage, that is “to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (2:5) and “proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (2:9) in the context of her marriage, she must love her husband the way Christ loves her! Christ didn’t disdain us but respected us enough to give His life for us! Christ didn’t come with deceit in His mouth. He wasn’t trying to manipulate anybody for selfish gain. He gave His life for us because He loved us.
15. So, be honest, what’s the effect your conduct is having on your husband? Is it stirring his heart to love Jesus or is it creating bitterness towards you? Listen, if your conduct is creating bitterness and dread in your husband then I promise it’s not leading him to turn to Jesus, but rather run, especially if you claim to be doing all this for Jesus!

The second principle about a Christian wife’s submission to her husband is that ...

(2) A Christian wife’s submission is meant to be a product of the humble confidence that only comes from knowing God! (3:3-6)

- A. I pointed towards this a minute ago, but now Peter is going to take us right into it. Look again at what he writes,
- B. 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.**
- C. Let me begin with a very important point of clarity. Kistemaker and Hendriksen noted,

- D. **“Peter does not say that a woman should refrain from adorning herself. He writes no prohibition against using cosmetics or wearing attractive apparel. “Peter’s emphasis is not on prohibition but on a proper sense of values.” ... He is not saying that women should neglect their outward appearance; he does not intend that they have unkempt hair, or wear no ornaments, or dress in shabby clothes.”²**
- E. Adorning is what makes a person stand out. It’s what sets them apart and demonstrates their beauty. Peter’s emphasis is not to detour women from being fashionable, but rather to raise the bar on what demonstrates their beauty. He tells them to do something that surpasses what clothing, hair and jewelry can do!
- F. Instead, **“4 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.**
- G. Now first I want you to notice a contrast here. By saying wives should adorn themselves with what is imperishable he is consequently saying the other things are perishable. Fashion is always changing! For instance, my wife isn’t overly consumed with fashion, but she does like to keep an up-to-date and presentable look. Check out this quick slide show that highlights how things change:
1. Keri in 1996
 2. Keri in 1999
 3. Keri in 2007
 4. Keri in 2009
 5. Keri in 2011
 6. Keri in 2015
 7. Keri in 2017
 8. Keri in 2019
 9. Keri in 2021
 10. Keri in 2022 adorning herself with beating me at an indoor game of Putt-Putt!
- H. So, there is nothing wrong with wearing fashionable clothing and jewelry; there’s nothing wrong with doing your hair however in the world you want to do it, but all that adorning is perishable and essentially meaningless. Therefore, Peter calls women to adorn themselves in a way that overpowers the most fashionable appearance they could ever have. He tells them to,
- I. **“4 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.**

² Kistemaker, S. J., & Hendriksen, W. (1953–2001). [*Exposition of the Epistles of Peter and the Epistle of Jude*](#) (Vol. 16, p. 120). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

- J. Now, some interpret the phrase “gentle and quiet spirit” as a distinctly feminine characteristic. They envision a woman with no self-confidence or identity who silently follows behind her husband being careful to only do and say what he wants. This interpretation of the phrase is 100% incorrect on every level!
- K. A “gentle and quiet spirit” is NOT a feminine characteristic but a masculine one exemplified by the ultimate man – Jesus! The word translated as “gentle” is only used in the New Testament 4 times. It’s used here in 1 Peter and then 3 times in Matthew. Listen to how they are used and see if you hear anything like a silent woman who walks behind her husband like a servant girl!
1. 5 "Blessed are the meek (same Greek word translated as gentle), for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)
 2. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:29)
 3. 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble (same Greek word translated as gentle), and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" (Matthew 21:5)
- L. In addition, when the Jews translated the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures into Greek, they used this Greek word to describe one of the boldest leaders in all the Bible – Moses!
- Note: 3 Now the man Moses was very meek (same Greek word translated as gentle), more than all people who were on the face of the earth. (Numbers 12:3)**
- M. The point I’m making is that to have a “gentle and quiet spirit” is to have the same kind of character and demeanor as God himself. Peter illustrates what he’s teaching by taking his readers back to the Old Testament. He writes,
- N. 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. That is, if in your marriage, you are doing so much good, with so much humble confidence that it should silence the ignorance of foolish people (2:15); then as a woman, this puts you in the category of one of the most revered women in the Bible. Sarah was a matriarch of Israel, but to become that she had to face some serious fears and exercise some serious faith!

2. Think about the relationship Sarah had with Abraham. Abraham's dad, Terah, led them to leave the great city of Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. Canaan was a wild countryside with no real stable governing influence at that time. However, when they got to Haran (a Chaldean outpost established for trade) they decided set up shop and established roots there. Then Terah died.
3. At some point, Abraham (at the time Abram) went to Sarah (at the time Sarai) and said God told me to pick up everything we have and move to a place that He will show us once we get there and in addition, He's going to make us a great nation! Sarah went with him! He later told his wife to have descendants to become a great nation they are going to have a child despite the fact they were both old and Sarah apparently never showed signs of being able to have a child.
4. Now remember, at that time Abraham and Sarah were pagans and pagan gods don't speak. But now, out of nowhere, Abraham is telling his wife God is speaking to him and telling them to pick up and move their entire family and family business, and, she is going to have a baby! Sarah had to be wondering if she was following a crazy man, but she still genuinely loved, supported, and served Abraham as his wife.
5. When they arrived in the promise land, Abraham and his nephew divided the land in half, and Abraham let Lot pick which half he would take. Lot, seemingly a bit spoiled, picked the place with the most fertile soil meaning Abraham gave away the easiest place for he and his wife to make a living for themselves. Yet, Sarah still genuinely loved, supported, and served Abraham as his wife.
6. On TWO occasions, the book of Genesis states Abraham claimed Sarah, not to be his wife, but rather to be his sister! He did it so he wouldn't be killed by Kings that he rightly concluded would want his wife. But, instead of standing up to those Kings, or simply not taking his flocks into their territories, he instead denied that Sarah was his wife and handed her over! In both cases God intervened and blessed Abraham, the greatest testimony being that Sarah still genuinely loved, supported and served Abraham as his wife.
7. Finally, eventually Abraham obeyed God and took he and his wife's only son up a mountain to sacrifice him to the Lord; something God halted and provided a substitute. Sarah could have never heard a more horrifying thing than that!
8. After all she went through nobody would blame Sarah for saying Abraham is crazy and I'm not going to have anything to do with him. But, Peter tells us Sarah's hope was in God, and as such she believed God was truly leading

Abraham, even when Abraham did cowardly things like denying she was his wife.

9. Sarah had an inner strength and confidence that demonstrated itself not with arrogant flamboyance, or an insistence to be served, but rather with her strength to truly and sincerely love, support and serve Abraham.
- O. Solomon tried to get his sons to understand this same truth, that is, humble confidence (the only wise form of confidence) is a result of being properly oriented with God.
 1. **19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; 20 by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. 21 My son, do not lose sight of these-- keep sound wisdom and discretion, 22 and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. 23 Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. 24 If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, 26 for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught. 27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. (Proverbs 3:19-20)**
 2. Love and serve others with the confidence that you belong to God!
Elsewhere the Bible says,
 3. **9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)**
 4. **37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37-39)**
 5. **9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)**

Which leads me to the following challenge,

CHALLENGE: The key to a Christian wife being able to submit to her husband the way God designed, is for her to be totally transformed, energized, and defined not by her skills and achievements, nor by the love she receives from her husband, but rather entirely by the Love of Christ for her!

It's not that you shouldn't find joy in your skills and achievement nor appreciate love from your husband, it's just that all those best impact you when you are already filled up by the love of Christ!

This is why Feminism totally failed women. It rightly told women to not be codependent on their husband. Codependency is not what marriage was created to be. Codependency is when another person is emotionally, physically or even spiritually reliant on another person. But here's where feminism failed women. It sold woman into the same idolatrous lie that men have fell into for millenniums. "Empowered" women were no longer codependent on their husbands, but rather on their talents, education, and career achievements; all of which fail to give life! The only one any of us should be codependent on is the only one who can actually provide us with what we truly cannot find anywhere else - Christ!

All of us should be codependent on Jesus. We were made to exist and thrive when our life is totally connected with the one who is life. And here's what's amazing, when we live our lives in total dependence of God for our emotional, spiritual and even physical strength; then we connected with the one who actually gives it!

"13 Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'" (John 4:13-14)

48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (John 6:48)

"2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation-- 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." (1 Peter 2:2-3)