

“Wordless Sermons!”

I. **INTRO:**

A. What a powerful practical portion of Peter!

B. Kelly & I - our marriage.

1. We don't have a perfect marriage. Never met anyone who has.
2. Not even **Jesus**, his marriage isn't perfect(yet); because **we** are his spouse.
 - a) *We cheat on Him. We don't trust Him at times. We don't want to submit to him at times. And we cast longing eyes on others, rather than Jesus.*
3. Our years together have been years of learning & growth, difficulty, delight, discovery, heartaches, tragedies, hurtful times & ecstatic moments together.
4. Our 1st date was Feb 21st 1979. **Sea Fare Inn, Whittier.**
 - a) **3-things** that might come up the beg of the night: *Butter, zipper, & a concrete car stop.*
5. Married 27 years; dated 5 before that; we're both stayed faithful to each other.
6. Marriage **isn't** the *blurring* together of 2 lives. Kelly is still Kelly.
 - a) *She is strong; smart; godly; gifted; very giving; loves her God; & loves people. She is a **very dedicated mom** to my kids; runs our finances; very organized; she saves/I spend; has always taken care of herself; she's beautiful(foxy).*

C. It has been aptly said, *“The Christian life is not difficult; it's **impossible!**”*

D. Not, **women** submit to **men**, issue; **but a wife to a husband**, issue.

1. “But, I don't trust men”. Nether do I! **Your only asked to trust one.**

E. **Historical Context:** Sometimes *Christianity* is seen as “*suppressing*” women. **That can't be farther than the truth.**

1. The churches that Peter is writing to has Greeks, Romans, & even some Jews in them.¹
2. In **Greek** culture wives led difficult lives.
 - a) They viewed their wives lower than themselves. They usually had many concubines. Their wife's role basically consisted of bearing children & doing housework.

¹ The Exemplary Husband; pg.196

b) Demosthenes the Athenian orator said, “*we have courtesans*(prostitutes) *for pleasure, concubines to provide for our daily needs, and our spouses to give us legitimate children and to be the faithful guardians of our homes*” (Against Neaera, 122)

3. The Romans weren't any better for women.

a) Marriage was legitimized prostitution & divorcing the wife for various & sundry things was very common.

4. The Jewish culture could be equally demeaning toward women.

a) Jewish women were treated much like slaves & were given no legal position, & divorce was rampant in the Jewish culture as well.

b) A typical morning prayer was, “*Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, who has not made me a...woman.*”

5. God's view on women & marriage was much different than the world's view!

a) God would say, “*Christian husbands, let it not so be named among you!*”

b) Think differently. Have different attitudes. Treat them differently.

6. Remember once again, the context he is expounding on (see 2:12).

II. WORDLESS SERMONS! (1-6)

A. 6 WAYS TO WIN YOUR HUSBAND! (1-6)

1. *Her Goal; Her Submission; Her Words; Her Chaste Conduct; Her Fleeting Beauty; Her Forever Beauty. And then Her Example.*

B. [1] HER GOAL! (1c)

C. Remember the context(21)...we must follow His example/pattern of *humble endurance* so that others will be led to His light.

1. Peter must have been thinking of Jesus' own words in *Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.* (Marriage = serve; give your life)

D. You must always focus on, & come back to,...it is for **his soul!**

E. [2] HER SUBMISSION! (1a)

F. This word(submit/subject) means the same throughout the NT:

1. Jesus/parents(Lk.5:21); demons/subject to the disciples(Lk.10:17); citizens/government(Rm.13:1); universe/Christ(1 Cor.15:27); unseen sp. powers/Jesus(1 Pet.3:22); Jesus/Father(1 Cor.15:28); church members/church leaders(1 Cor.16:15,16); Church/Christ(Eph.5:24); servants/masters(1 Pet.2:18); wives/husbands(1 Pet.3:1); Christians/to God(Heb.12:9). *[none of these are ever reversed]*

G. Submitting to an *unbeliever!*

1. **Note:** Peter doesn't give her the **right to flee** from her husband, **but** the higher calling to **fight for his soul!**
2. Peter says like Paul did, **a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him.** (1Cor.7:13)
3. Our being *recused from sin* & having a new, holy way of life **should not** engender a *holier-then-thou*, contemptful attitude.
 - a) Submitting to an unbeliever is difficult, but it is a vital part of *leading them to Jesus Christ*.
4. **Submit in everything to the point of compromise your relationship w/God? NO!**
 - a) But you must **look for every opportunity** to humbly serve in the power of Gods Spirit

H. *Submission* is “voluntarily cooperating w/someone.”

1. First out of love & respect for God; **then** out of love & respect for that person.
- I. Did you know the bible never tells wives to *obey* their husbands?
1. The nature of a wife's submission is **different** from the submission of **children** or **slaves**. **Children & slaves are told to obey; the wife is not.**
 2. The wife has a **different relationship** to her husband **than** children to parents or slaves to masters.
 3. The motivation for *voluntary submission* is that it's a *proper Christian attitude!*²

J. [3] HER WORDS! (1b)

K. Wives should depend upon their **lives** more than their **lips** in witnessing to unsaved husbands

L. **W/o a word** - w/o talking about spiritual things; certainly w/o spiritual lecturing/nagging.
(hopefully you can talk about spiritual things if he's open...*but if not!*)

M. (2) **Q:** How do you bring religion into a pagan home? **A:** Action!

N. **Ladies** (& men in this situation) **Pray for 2 things:** Grace to live rightly & For God to work in your spouses heart.

O. [4] HER CHASTE CONDUCT! (1d,2)

P. **Chaste** – pure, free from moral defilement.

1. This is another reminder that this submission must never go so far as to include demands to do something that is *morally wrong*.

Q. **Ruth Graham** said it was a great day in her life when she realized it was **not** her job to *change* her husband. She said, "**It was my job to love Billy and God's job to change him.**"

² Shepherd's Notes: 1,2 Peter, Jude; pg.24

R. [5] HER FLEETING BEAUTY! (3)

S. Adornment...outward - Christianity came into a world of luxury & decadence combined.

T. Many churches have taken this verse & built their case for **no jewelry** or **no hair styles** ...but there's one problem...*there was no adjective modifying apparel* in the orig (i.e. *fine*)

1. If you prohibit jewelry & hair styles, you must prohibit them wearing any clothes at all!

U. Christian women can be attractive without being *worldly*!

V. Peter said Christian wives should not think of outer attire as *the source* of genuine beauty! Another words, be cautious of *artificial glamour*.

W. Dress nice, & be attractive...but if this is all you have...that's a problem!

1. If you're *w/o character* Prov.11:22 says, **As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, So is a lovely woman who lacks discretion.**
2. Our world bombards you ladies with looking better rather than living better!
 - a) Imagine a magazine in the store whose cover read, "How to grow in Humility!"

X. [6] HER FOREVER BEAUTY! (4)

Y. The hidden person of the heart!

Z. (3,4) **Inner beauty** is far more important than **outer beauty**.

AA.Christian wives w/unsaved husbands should seek to win them to the Lord w/*true spiritual beauty* & **not** w/*artificial glamor* or *nagging*.

BB.Girls, "However you **catch em**; is what you'll need to **keep em**."

1. *Catch him with your body/hair/clothes/ Or, Heart?*

CC.**Not** to be understood as an *absolute prohibition* of the things mentioned, **but** the need of *relative proportion* between the *outward appearance* & the *inward life*.

DD.*Gentle & quiet spirit* - only used 3 other times in the NT...& 2 pertain to Christ!

1. Defined as, "one who isn't insistent on his own rights, is not pushy, not selfishly assertive, not demanding his own way."
2. Here's what matters...God finds it very precious!!!

EE.Purity of life & a submissive spirit have always been a godly woman's lasting source of beauty & attractiveness.

1. People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out. **But** in the darkness, beauty is seen **only if there is a light within!**

FF.*Seek exemplary women*: [1] Seek out godly older women [2] Read books by godly women [3] Read biographies of women who did love the Lord [4] Be that women (older women, teach younger). Each of you are older than someone.

GG. **HER EXAMPLE!** (5,6)

HH. It must have truly been difficult being married to Abraham.

1. Come on, "I had a vision let's move to a strange land; pretend you're my sister (twice); let's not take the best land, let's give that to our troubled nephew (Lot); Honey I'm going to go sacrifice our son, see you in a few days.

2. He at times appeared *unpredictable, devious, foolish, rash, & irresponsible!*

II. God sets forth this *super-cultural, trans-cultural* example in Sarah.

JJ. **Sarah really?** - She's the one who said to her husband, "*Hey why not commit adultery, then we can have kids.*"

1. If you're new to Scripture that wasn't a good idea! (We're still fighting a war in the middle East of over that!)

2. Why look to Sarah. **Why not Ruth?** But she was the mother of the nation of Israel.

a) Maybe very strategic why God choose her. Maybe not because she's *perfect* but because she's *imperfect*.

b) Ladies, you're not going to be a perfect wife. Sarah wasn't.

c) You're not always going to give good counsel. Sarah didn't.

d) Sometimes you're going to follow your husband when you shouldn't, because he's not following God. That's what Sarah did on a # of occasions (went along w/lie twice)

e) Sometimes you're not going to follow your husband when you should. Like Sarah did

f) She was a godly woman, but an imperfect woman.

g) If you look at the **totality** of her life she was a godly woman. If you look at **segments** of her life, you'll see a woman that made some tragic mistakes.

2 Books to recommend:

Sacred Marriage, Gary Thomas.

Thriving Despite A Difficult Marriage, Michael & Chuck Misja.