Hearts of Love

70m & Debbie 7illman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

May God richly bless you!

Tom & Debbie

A Marriage that Honors God (part 1)

We regularly receive calls during our radio ministry, from women or men, asking for prayer for them regarding their difficult marriage. Usually the caller is a woman but men do call also. Sometimes the problem surrounds a husband's or wife's drug or alcohol abuse or one spouse's infidelity regarding adultery or pornography.

God's Word always has the best answer for all of us if we will be willing to read it, obey it and live accordingly

1 Peter 3 says, 'Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel; rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,' God's will for His woman is that she be beauty-FULL... not merely beauty-covered. The women of Hollywood and entertainment are beauty-covered but most are uglyfull. God knows the difference and He expects us to also. He is not saying that she shouldn't take care of herself, that she shouldn't wear her hair in the way that is most attractive to her face and body type, that she shouldn't wear appropriate jewelry or wear nice looking and well fitting clothing but He is saying that a woman's hair, makeup, jewelry and clothing should not be





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2 Corinthians 5:19,20

her first and foremost consideration; her heart is what God sees and His will is that her heart be wholly His. His will is that her inner heart, reflecting Him, should be most important to her... and it should be most important to her husband also; a Christian husband should not want his wife to dress herself up to look like a Hollywood whore. God is saying that a Christian wife should willingly submit herself to her husband but first, she should submit herself to God. And this verse is not speaking to married women only. Every Christian woman should adorn herself in the same way as the willing, submissive bride of the Lord Jesus Christ as should every Christian man adorn himself also as the willing, submissive bride of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Too often, people pull this verse out as a standalone command to wives to submit!! Submit, woman!! The husband is the head and you are the tail... submit!! submit!! Therefore many women chaff mightily against what they've been taught this verse is saying.

Actually, this verse is simply a continuation of what Peter and Paul have been saying all along. God is working in each of us to form us more and more, day by

day, into the image and likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ and the two most important virtues of Jesus Christ, while on Earth, were His patience and His willing submission to His Father's will in all things. Just before this, in 1 Peter 2:18, we read, 'Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh... and Paul said in Romans 13: 'Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.'

These all say the same thing: God is working in every one of us to form us into the image and likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ... commanding us to be in submission to whatever authority God has placed us under.

And that is the point. Not only did God put in place every authority, God personally placed every one of us under whatever authority we are under.

Do you have a boss? God put you there. Do you have a parent? God put you there. Do you have a husband? God put you there. Are you a husband? God put you there to be

submissive to Him and to reflect His loving, careful authority.

God is working in each of us to create in us, hearts that seek Him and that honor Him by willingly submitting ourselves to whatever authority we happen to be under... whoever we are and wherever we are.

Verse 1 could be read, 'Men, women, wives, young people, be submissive to your own husbands, your own bosses, your own teachers, your own parents... that even if some do not obey the Word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, employees, students, children... when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

Wives are not being singled out for an additional layer of difficult submission. They are being honored by God to be in a position of such power that they have this promise from God: live your life according to my will and I will do great things in and through you. God says, 'Do you have an unbelieving husband or a wrongly living husband? I have given you the power to see him changed... not the power to change him...'That is My job,' God says. ' Your job is to just live according to My will: willingly placing yourself under his authority as an example of serving Me as a woman of God, a woman of chaste conduct, a woman of peace, a woman of love, of patience, kindness, gentleness, forgiveness... having and maintaining the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit... and watch what I can do in his rebellious unbelieving heart through your faithfulness.'

I, Tom, am an example of this very verse in action. Thirty years ago, Debbie could have been an angry, bitter, snarling, haranguing, screeching wife but since she wanted to see God's will accomplished in me, and in herself, and in our daughters... she was trying to be this kind of woman... the kind of woman Proverbs 31 describes: 'Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her

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husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life... Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her... "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.'

I saw her example and it added layer upon layer of conviction on me.

In the face of all her friends' attitude toward me, in the face of her Sunday School Class's attitude toward me, in the face of her family's attitude toward me... in the face of her own fear... she chose to pray for me, to have our daughters praying for me... to live out her life in front of everyone's view, in spite of everyone's view, wanting God to be glorified. She was pressured from all sides to divorce me and move on with her life. Part of the pressure from others is that so many others had not stayed with it... they had not humbled themselves and denied themselves for the purpose of seeing God glorified. If she could see this thing completely through, it was going to serve as conviction and even condemnation to everyone watching, who had not followed through with their own difficult circumstance. Many our life as a married husband and wife. people have chosen to give up and bail If I ever wield my authority in any way

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out in the kind of circumstances she faced. On the other hand, her example has undoubtedly become a strengthening and encouragement to many others.

She wasn't perfect but she was trying to do her best to see God glorified. She wasn't doing it to get me back because she didn't even want me back... who would... and she had no reason to believe I'd ever change... after all, she had tried to change me for 16 years. But she did want God's will to be accomplished in me and in herself, as well as in our daughters.

Only God could change my heart and He only did that once she was out of the way, and allowing Him to change her heart also.

Now, she willingly submits herself to my authority as her husband and her behavior continually acts as a cautioning to me, from God, to always remember that He is the One Who put me in this place of authority and He is the One Who is the ultimate authority in

that is not honoring to her and to God, He is the One to Whom I must answer and I don't like having to answer to Him in that way.

1 Peter 3:6 says, 'as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.' I have tried and tried to get Debbie to call me 'Lord,' but she just won't submit!

Neither of us are perfect but our hearts individually, and our heart as a single married 'oneness,' is to allow God to glorify Himself, however He chooses, in and through us, individually and together. Debbie will retire from her regular job at the end of this year and join me in Hearts of Love but we will never retire from 'full-time ministry.' Our ambition is to be 'poured out' for God's glory until He comes for us, one day soon, and calls us up to meet Him in the air.

This month, I focused on wives. Next month, Husbands, I'm coming for you! (unless of course, Debbie makes me do something for Christmas... then I'll say 'Yes dear,' and finish it in January.)

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