

# Godly Wives

by J. Mike Minnix

<b>TITLE:</b>	Godly Wives
<b>BIBLE BOOK:</b>	1 Peter 3 : 1-6
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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Marriage; Wives; Home
<b>SERIES:</b>	A Marriage Made In Heaven
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b>	Someone said that women have a difficult task living in this world, principally because they have to deal with men! God has specific instructions for a godly wife. Wise and beautiful is the woman who learns His will for the home and lives it.

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## Introduction

Marriages are failing today at a distressing rate. The divorce rate is still at or slightly above 50%. When you consider that many couples are just living together, and others are postponing marriage because of their fear of failure, the statistics are even worse.

Chastity is a thing of the past as more teens are involved in pre-marital sex than any time in history. To say the least, home life in America is in decline, and that includes home life among Christian families.

Several recent surveys seem to indicate that divorce and separation among Christian families is not much different than the general population.

What is the problem? The problem is multi-faceted but tends to stem from one source. We are not following heaven's directions concerning love, sex and marriage. A marriage made in heaven must follow heaven's rules. More than ever, we need God's Word on how to have a happy home.

Zig Ziglar was on the Focus On The Family radio program and shared this about successful marriage, "Meeting any of the following conditions will greatly reduce the chances of a marriage's failing. Less than one couple in two hundred ever divorce when ALL THREE of the following three conditions are met:

They pray TOGETHER and ALOUD every day.

They read God's Word TOGETHER and ALOUD every day.

They attend worship services TOGETHER and REGULARLY

Ziglar is right. There may be many Christians whose marriages are falling apart, but few of them participate daily in the three duties, which Ziglar mentioned. Being a Christian does not keep you from a failing marriage, but acting like one will!

Today I begin a two part series entitled, A Marriage Made In Heaven. We begin today just where Simon Peter began in his first epistle - with the subject of The Godly Wife. Note the Scripture passage for today found in 1 Peter 3:1-6.

It has become something of a fad these days for magazines, newspapers and even T.V. programs to do makeover shows for women. A makeover occurs when an expert or a group of so-called experts use a woman as an example. They will pick someone who needs help, badly! They will do a "before" session or photo of the woman. They will describe the problems with her hair. The expert will say, "Just look at those split ends." I thought split ends were people who ran for passes on football teams, but apparently women have a real problem with them on their head. Every makeover has to deal with split ends. This same expert, or another from another field will comment on her clothes. These experts can rip a woman's clothing style to pieces faster than a tiger could rip through a man's T-shirt. By this time the woman looks like she wants to cry, usually because the experts so far are right! A final comment has to be made about her makeup. They usually say that she is using too much, or too little, and that it is too dark or too light - and most of it has been put in all the wrong places. The woman is rushed off stage to a team of waiting attendants who are dedicated to be sure that the woman is made over from head to toe. You know what kind of people these people are, don't you? They are the type that charge about \$200.00 for a haircut. The "after" photo comes after a lot of work.

Peter is purposing a kind of makeover as well. His makeover is different, however. He intention is to get the Christian wife to allow God to make her over. Now isn't that a novel idea? Suppose today, dear Christian woman, you had to stand before God and allow him to show you areas that need work. Where do you think He would start? You men might do well to consider this makeover as well. I am sure He would like to get us in to His makeover clinic for an assessment.

At this particular place in the Scripture, God is concerned with three important areas. You cannot have a marriage made in heaven without these three being in proper perspective.

## I. The Outward Makeover

### A. Her Action

#### 1. Toward Her Husband

"A wife with good horse sense will never become a nag." Someone has added, however, that if more men were self-starters in the area of communication, fewer wives would be cranks. I understand that most husbands have a misshapen idea of womanhood and wifedom. I am reminded of the following story from a lady who wrote in to Reader's Digest.

"I'm lonely," Adam told God in the Garden of Eden. "I need to have someone around for company."  
"Okay," replied God. "I'm going to give you the perfect woman. Beautiful, intelligent and gracious; she'll cook and clean for you and never say a cross word." "Sounds good," Adam said. "But what's she going to cost?" "An arm and a leg."

"That's pretty steep," countered Adam. "What can I get for just a rib?" Contributed by Martha G. Verlander, Reader's Digest, February 1991 p. 82

The perfect woman only exists in the mind. Women, like men, are sinners. We need God to save us and then to shape us into what we are meant to be.

One lady said her problem was she had been in love with two men. Actually, it was the same man,

but she learned he was like two different men. When the pastor asked her to explain, she said, "Well, I married a personality, but I ended up with a character!"

But, regardless of the misunderstandings between men and women, the wife has a responsibility toward her husband. She must find God's will in this matter. Edmund Burke once said, "She is not made for the admiration of all, but for the happiness of one."

## 2. Toward Her Holy Life

A wife must be careful to work on her heart as much as she does her hair. She must be as concerned about her commitment as her cosmetics. This requires a daily quiet time when the Bible is read and prayer is offered. This requires that she examine her heart often to see that nothing impure resides there.

### B. Her Appearance

It is amazing what a little paint can do to help an old barn. God is not saying that women should not adorn themselves in a lovely way. He is not talking about the absence of outward beauty but the need for a woman not to make outward beauty the priority.

## II. The Inward Makeover

### A. The Way To A Beauty That Lasts

The inward beauty, which God gives to a godly woman, is something that cannot and will not fade with time. Our outward bodies decline with time and age. No cosmetic company, and no surgery known to man, can stop this process. But, there is a beauty which time cannot erode. That beauty comes from the Lord. It comes from a godly heart, a prayerful spirit and committed soul.

### B. The Worth Of That Beauty To The Lord

The Lord places emphasis on this inner beauty. Certainly we all want to look our best. For some of us that is more difficult than it is for others. But, divine beauty is available to all. God places the greatest worth on this inner commitment and holy life. The beauty contest in heaven one day will have nothing to do with outward appearance. God will uncover hearts before our eyes. Some who looked quite lovely in this life, will be revolting when the heart is unveiled. Others, who turned very few heads in this life, will be stunningly beautiful when God shows us their hearts. In the beauty contest category, the last one to be held is the only one that will count!

## III. The Backward Makeover

I suppose nothing is more important in fashion and beauty than the question concerning what is new. After all, the latest style must be considered if a woman is to be in vogue. Interestingly, God does not tell us to look forward but backward. He shows us that some things from the past are worth keeping in our makeover generation.

### A. A Comparison For The Wife

The Lord tells the wife she should compare her life to that of women in the past, like Sarah. Sarah loved her husband. She left her home and friends in Haran just because her husband said God told them to. She supported him and upheld him. The Bible says she obeyed him and called him master. This does not mean that Abraham was mean-spirited and authoritative; on the contrary, it means his wife so loved him that she voluntarily lifted him up so he could fulfill his God-given role. By the same token, she became the mother of the nation that brought our Savior into the world!

### B. A Comfort For The Wife

Sarah was comforted by Abraham. She loved her husband. Abraham was what he was largely because Sarah was who she was. They became the most important married couple of the Old Testament. Neither of them tried to be or was more important than the other. They had different roles but they worked toward the same goals!

The comfort for Sarah was that she trusted God and had her hope in Him. She loved Abraham, but she trusted God. Her hope was not in her husband, but in her Lord. This gave her peace of mind. She was not interested as much in what was modern as she was in her Master, the Lord.

We need to remember that sinners live in every home and every marriage. That is why it is important for us to bring our marriages to the Lord regularly and sincerely.

Perhaps today, dear wives, you need to come and recommit you marriage and your life to Christ. Your job is an awesome one; you cannot possibly do it properly without God's help. It may be that you are not a Christian. The greatest thing you can do for a husband and/or children is give them a Christian wife and mother.