

# Teachings of Peter and Paul about Marriage

- 1Pt 3:1–2 A wife’s obedience to her unchristian husband may influence the husband by her chaste conduct coupled with respect (*phobō*; KJV, fear)
- 1Pt 3:5–7 Righteous women of old trusted in God and were in subjection to their husbands who gave honor to their wives, treating her as a tender instrument [KJV, weaker vessel], and also recognizing that they will be heirs together of the gift (*charitos*; KJV, grace) of life
- 1Pt 3:7 A husband should live according to revealed truth (*gnōsin*; KJV, knowledge), giving honor to the wife
- 1Cor 7:2 “Let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband”
- 1Cor 7:3–4 “Let the husband render unto the wife what is owed to her (*opheilēn*; KJV, due benevolence), and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not authority (*exousia*; KJV, power) of her own body, but the husband, and likewise also the husband hath not authority [KJV, power] of his own body, but the wife”
- 1Cor. 7:15 “For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband”
- 1Cor 11:7 He is in the glory of God; and she is the glory of the man
- 1Cor 11:11 “Neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord”
- Eph 5:25, 33 The husband has pure love toward (*agapatō*; KJV, loves) his wife, as Christ has pure love for the Church; he loves his wife even as his own life
- Eph 5:22–24 The wife stands behind (*hypotassetai*; KJV, submits to) her husband in all things when the husband stands behind Christ [as in a battle formation]; she shows love, reverence, and respect to her husband
- Col 3:18 Wives stand behind (*hypotassesthe*; KJV, submit themselves to) their own husbands as it is fit in the Lord
- 1Tm 2:15 She shall be preserved during childbirth, if they [plural] continue together in faith, charity and holiness with good judgment and self-control (*sōphrosunēs*; KJV, sobriety)

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### Explanation

Marriage was an important part of New Testament Christianity. Both Peter and Paul encouraged marriage. Paul forsook marriage (or perhaps remarriage) while he served as a missionary, and he encouraged all single men and women to remain absolutely chaste like himself (1Cor 7:8–9), but he strongly rejected the false doctrine that “it is good for a man not to touch a woman” (1Cor 7:1). He gave advice to married couples regarding sexual relations within marriage; and he discouraged divorce, even among mixed marriages of different faiths (1Cor 7:2–5, 10–17). Both Peter and Paul admonished husbands and wives to have total love and respect for each other, for the one is not without the other in the Lord. In unity, they shall be joint-heirs together of the gift of eternal life.

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### Reference

Monte S. Nyman, “The Stumbling Blocks of First Corinthians,” in *The New Testament and the Latter-day Saints*, Sidney B. Sperry Symposium (Orem, Utah: Randall Book, 1987), 249–62.