

## Couples In Bloom – Offerings Overcome Offenses

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The Bible has positive “**Do this**” type answers for marriage problems and is a healthy place to become addicted to for getting help in time of need. Hiding God’s Word in our heart is even better *not* in time of need because that prevents some problems from ever starting in the first place ⇒ Psalm 119:11. These are all benefits of learning God’s Word.

The Apostle Peter was married and had a temper... a good guy to learn from. Follow each progression and then we will look at the lesson. It has the same heart for everybody:

1. A slave who submits to good- *and* bad- masters receives favor ⇒ 1 Peter 2:18-21.
2. A wife’s good behavior can overcome a husband’s bad behavior ⇒ 1 Peter 3:1-6.
3. A husband’s strength can save the day from a wife’s weaknesses ⇒ 1 Peter 3:7.

**1 Peter 3:7** ⇒ defines **a husband’s strength**. The Bible gives these details to the husband because God made him the leader. **Husbands are to Do this:**

1. **Dwell with her:** he must *not* leave her; he must grow up and cool down fast. How?
2. **According to knowledge:** he needs to relate to her with these Biblical specifics:
  - a. **She has a high price tag:** her preciousness to him *must* be communicated.
  - b. **She is weaker than he is:** she is not designed to ‘make it happen’ like *he* is.
  - c. **She deserves more:** she typifies the Bride of Christ, whom God gave *all* for.
  - d. **His prayers will be hindered if he doesn’t do these:** because *he* has already received this exact kindness from God, being part of His Bride, plus gets to have a bride of his own! A hypocrite is one who enjoys God’s grace for himself / herself, yet does not likewise live it and give it to their spouse.

**1 Peter 3:1-6** ⇒ defines **submission** as **confident righteousness**. Read these verses in your Bible for the Scriptural (not cultural) definition of submission. Then realize this truth: **submission is God’s way of empowering wives**. **Wives are to Do this:**

Verse 1. **Her husband will make mistakes** but she can help him out of them.

Verse 2. **She maintains respect and pure behavior** regardless of his.

Verse 3. **Submission is her spiritual make-up** which she continually improves upon.

Verse 4. **God loves looking at her spiritual make-up** as will her husband, eventually.

Verse 5. **She remembers that obeying God’s ways is what makes her beautiful.**

Verse 6. **She confidently obeys her husband** without becoming afraid or alarmed.

Submission is stronger than manipulation because God anoints submission but hates the arrogance of bribery. Offerings are humble; offenses are proud. Offerings are given; offenses are taken. **Strength** and **submission** are **offerings** that **overcome offenses**.

**Example:** A weary husband arrives home from work to find his frazzled wife has lost her grip on everything, including supper. **Do this:** he tells her that her value is still high when her performance is low. He then helps her, including with supper. She feels relief. Over-reacting, he says they should not help with the church outreach next week after all. **Do this:** she affirms his leadership, gently explains how the outreach had no impact on today, and how much she is looking forward to it. He quiets himself, prays, realizes she is right, and tells her. **Strength** and **submission offer marital life.** ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone