

*Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another.*

## **A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter**

Beloved:

You wives should be subordinate to your husbands  
so that, even if some disobey the word,  
they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct  
when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior.

Your adornment should not be an external one:

braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry,  
or dressing in fine clothes,  
but rather the hidden character of the heart,  
expressed in the imperishable beauty  
of a gentle and calm disposition,  
which is precious in the sight of God.

For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God  
once used to adorn themselves  
and were subordinate to their husbands;  
thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord."  
You are her children when you do what is good  
and fear no intimidation.

Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in  
understanding, showing honor to the weaker female sex,  
since we are joint heirs of the gift of life,  
so that your prayers may not be hindered.  
Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic,  
loving toward one another, compassionate, humble.

Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult;  
but, on the contrary, a blessing,  
because to this you were called,  
that you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.