THE QUESTION

What does it mean that the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife (1 Corinthians 7:14)?

Asked by a THF member on May 18, 2026 · published November 9, 2026, updated November 11, 2026 · 7 numbered quotations · the 10 early Christian passages and 146 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-it-mean-that-the-unbelieving-husband-is-sanctified-by-the-wife

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

It means the believing wife is not made unclean by staying married to her unbelieving husband, and their marriage and children count as holy. Early writers apply it to marriages that existed before one spouse believed. The husband is still called an unbeliever; these passages do not say her faith saves or baptizes him.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

IN THIS STUDY

1	Paul tells a believing wife to stay	2	5	Union with a holy partner can sanctify	4
2	Her purity outweighs his uncleanness	2		What these passages don't tell us	5
3	It covers marriages made before faith	3		The Sources: 10 early Christian passages and 146 Bible verses, with links	5
4	Clement uses the verse to defend marriage	4			

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 1 OF 5

Paul tells a believing wife to stay

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian, writing around AD 200, quotes Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 7:12-14. A believing wife should not send away an unbelieving husband who is content to stay, because he is sanctified by her, and otherwise their children would be unclean.

1 “In the same way, let not a believing woman, married to an unbeliever, dismiss him, if she finds her husband agreeable to their continued union. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the believing wife, and the unbelieving wife by the believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *To His Wife* 2.2 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 4, page 5** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 5

Her purity outweighs his uncleanness

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Chrysostom, a later 4th-century preacher, says Paul wrote this so a Christian wife would not fear that married union with an unbeliever made her unclean. Her purity overcomes his uncleanness. He also says the husband has remained in unbelief, so being sanctified here does not mean he has become a believer.

2 “Then, so that the woman would not be afraid, as if she had become unclean because of relations with her husband, he says, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband." And yet, if the man who is joined to a prostitute is one body with her, it is quite clear that the woman who is joined to an idolater is also one body with him. Very well, it is one body. Nevertheless, she does not become unclean. Instead, the purity of the wife overcomes the uncleanness of the husband.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **John Chrysostom,** *Homilies on First Corinthians* 19 (c. 386–407 AD) **Source 9, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

3 “This means: if, after marrying or after being married, one person has received the word of godliness, and then the other person, who has remained in unbelief, still desires to live together, the marriage must not be broken off. For, he says, "the unbelieving husband is sanctified in the wife." So great is the abundance of your purity.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **John Chrysostom,** *Homilies on First Corinthians* 19 (c. 386–407 AD) **Source 10, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 5

It covers marriages made before faith

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian rejects reading the verse as permission for a Christian to marry an unbeliever. Paul says has an unbelieving wife, not takes one, so the verse is about someone who came to faith while already married. Elsewhere Tertullian says Paul's rule to marry only in the Lord means no Christian should marry a heathen.

4 “It may be that by understanding this warning in a general way, as concerning believers who are married, they think that permission is thereby granted even to marry unbelievers. God forbid that one who interprets it this way should knowingly ensnare himself! But it is clear that this Scripture points to those believers who were found by the grace of God in the state of Gentile marriage, according to the very words themselves: "If any believer has an unbelieving wife." It does not say, "takes an unbelieving wife."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *To His Wife* 2.2 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 4, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

5 “Certainly also, when the apostle rules that marriage should be only in the Lord, 1 Corinthians 7:39, so that no Christian should marry a heathen, he upholds a law of the Creator, who everywhere forbids marriage with strangers.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 40 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 4 OF 5

Clement uses the verse to defend marriage

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria, around AD 200, quotes Paul's teaching on marriage down to the words But now they are holy (1 Corinthians 7:14). He uses it against teachers who spoke against marriage, as proof that marriage is approved in the New Testament too.

6

> “And still more clearly he says, "To those who are joined in marriage I command, not I, but the Lord, that a wife is not to be separated from her husband. But if she is separated, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to send away his wife. But to the rest I say, I, not the Lord," down to, "But now they are holy,"
> 1 Corinthians 7:14. What then will those say who speak against the law and against marriage, as though it were permitted only by the law, and not also in the New Testament?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 3 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 2, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 5

Union with a holy partner can sanctify

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Irenaeus, in the 2nd century, compares the verse to the prophet Hosea's wife, who was sanctified by union with the prophet, as the Church is sanctified by fellowship with God's Son. He uses Paul's words alongside that picture.

7

> “For this reason, the prophet Hosea took "a wife of whoredoms," prophesying through this action "that in committing fornication the earth would fornicate from the Lord," meaning the people on the earth; and from such people, it will be God’s good pleasure to create a Church that shall be sanctified by fellowship with His Son, just as that woman was sanctified by union with the prophet. And for this reason, Paul declares that the “unbelieving wife is sanctified by the believing husband.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 1, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not say the unbelieving husband is forgiven, baptized, or saved because of his wife's faith.
- They do not fully explain what the children's holiness means or how it relates to baptism.
- The plainest explanation of the word sanctified here comes from Chrysostom in the late 4th century, later than the other writers.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 10 early Christian passages and 146 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–10, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 11–100, in Bible order), then 56 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *10 passages from 5 writers*

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 1*

1 *Against Heresies: Book IV* **Quote 7, page 4** “for this reason, Paul declares that the “unbelieving wife is sanctified by the believing husband.” Then again, the prophet names his children "Not having obtained mercy," and "Not a people… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *Stromata* 3 **Quote 6, page 4** of marriage is the begetting of children. This he showed in what comes before, saying, "Let the husband render the debt to the wife, and likewise also the wife to… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Stromata* 3 (on point 4) he rightly says, "It is better to marry than to burn." 1 Corinthians 7:9 This is so that the husband may give what is owed to the wife, and… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 4–7*

4 *To His Wife* 2.2 **Quotes 1, 4, pages 2, 3** “that the unbeliever may, through the use of matrimony, be gained by the believer… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Against Marcion* 34 But your own apostle, you know, does not allow the members of Christ to be joined to a harlot. 1 Corinthians 6:15 Divorce, therefore, when it is justly deserved… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

6 *On Monogamy* 11 it is for a man not to touch a woman; but, on account of fornications, let each one have his own wife." He shows that there were some who, having… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Against Marcion* 40 **Quote 5, page 3** "Certainly also, when the apostle rules that marriage should be only in the Lord, 1 Corinthians 7:39, so that no Christian should marry a heathen, he upholds a law of the Creator, who everywhere forbids marriage with strangers." **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 8*

8 *Commentary on Matthew* 14 (1885 English) "Corinthians 7:2 and this, Let the husband render unto the wife her due, and likewise also the wife unto the husband… [continues online] **read ›**

John Chrysostom, *c. 386–407 AD · sources 9–10*

9 *Homilies on First Corinthians* 19 **Quote 2, page 2** "Then, so that the woman would not be afraid, as if she had become unclean because of relations with her husband, he says, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband." And yet, if the man who is joined to a prostitute is one body with her, it is quite clear that the woman who is joined to an idolater is also one body with him. Very well, it is one body. Nevertheless, she does not become unclean. Instead, the purity of the wife overcomes the uncleanness of the husband." **read ›**

10 *Homilies on First Corinthians* 19 **Quote 3, page 3** "This means: if, after marrying or after being married, one person has received the word of godliness, and then the other person, who has remained in unbelief, still desires to live together, the marriage must not be broken off. For, he says, "the unbelieving husband is sanctified in the wife." So great is the abundance of your purity." **read ›**

THE BIBLE *90 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

11 **Genesis 2:24** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. **read ›**

12 **Exodus 21:3** If he came in alone, he shall also go out alone; but if a wife came in with him, his wife also shall go out. **read ›**

13 **Exodus 29:37** For seven days you shall cleanse the altar and sanctify it, and the altar shall be most holy. Whoever touches the altar shall be sanctified. **read ›**

14 **Exodus 30:29** You shall sanctify them, and they shall be most holy; whoever touches them shall be sanctified. **read ›**

15 **Leviticus 12:2** "Speak to the children of Israel and say to them: 'If a woman conceives and bears a male child, she shall be unclean seven days; as in the days set apart for her monthly separation, she shall be unclean. **read ›**

16 **Leviticus 15:13** When the man with the discharge is cleansed of his discharge, seven days shall be counted for him for his cleansing; then he shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and he shall be clean. **read ›**

17 **Leviticus 20:21** If anyone takes his brother's wife, it is uncleanness; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They shall die childless. **read ›**

18 **Leviticus 20:26** You shall be holy to me, for I, the Lord your God, am holy, who separated you from all the nations to be mine. **read ›**

19 **Leviticus 21:3** and for a virgin sister who is near to him and has not been given to a husband; for these he may defile himself. **read ›**

20 **Leviticus 21:7** They shall not take a woman who is a prostitute and profaned, nor a woman cast out by her husband, for he is holy to the Lord his God. **read ›**

21 **Leviticus 21:8** You shall sanctify him; he offers the gifts of the Lord your God. He shall be holy, for I, the Lord who sanctifies them, am holy. **read ›**

22 **Leviticus 21:15** He shall not profane his seed among his people: I am the Lord who sanctifies him.' " **read ›**

23 **Leviticus 22:6** the person who touches any of these shall be unclean until evening. He shall not eat of the holy things unless he washes his body with water; **read ›**

24 **Leviticus 22:12** If the daughter of a man who is a priest marries a man who is a stranger, she shall not eat of the firstfruits of the holy things. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

25 **Numbers 5:19** Then the priest shall put her under oath and say to the woman, ‘If no one has lain with you, and if you have not gone astray to be defiled while under your own husband, be free from this water of proof that brings the curse. **read ›**

26 **Numbers 5:28** But if the woman has not been defiled and is clean, she shall be free and shall conceive seed. **read ›**

27 **Numbers 6:8** All the days of his vow he shall be holy to the Lord. **read ›**

28 **Numbers 9:10** “Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘Whatever man becomes unclean because of a dead person, or is on a journey far off, whether among you or in your generations to come, he too shall keep the Passover to the Lord **read ›**

29 **Numbers 19:9** And a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the young cow and put them outside the camp in a clean place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel; it is a water of sprinkling, a purification. **read ›**

30 **Numbers 19:13** Everyone who touches the dead body of a human soul, if he has died, and does not purify himself, has defiled the tabernacle of the Lord; that person shall be destroyed from Israel, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean; his uncleanness is still in him. **read ›**

31 **Numbers 19:18** And a man who is clean shall take hyssop and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it on the house and on the furnishings and on the persons who are there, and on him who touched the human bone, or the slain, or the dead, or the tomb. **read ›**

32 **Numbers 19:19** And the clean man shall sprinkle the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day, and he shall be purified on the seventh day; and he shall wash his garments and bathe in water, and he shall be unclean until evening. **read ›**

33 **Numbers 19:20** But the man who is defiled and does not purify himself, that person shall be utterly destroyed from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the holy place of the Lord, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **read ›**

34 **Numbers 30:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

35 **Numbers 30:9** The vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, whatever she vows concerning her soul, shall remain on her. (Septuagint Numbers 30:10 (Numbers 30:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

36 **Numbers 30:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

37 **Numbers 30:13** Every vow and every binding oath to humble the soul—her husband shall confirm it for her, or her husband shall cancel it. (Septuagint Numbers 30:14 (Numbers 30:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

38 **Numbers 30:14** But if he keeps entirely silent toward her from day to day, then he confirms for her all her vows; and the obligations that are on her he confirms for her, because he kept silent toward her on the day he heard. (Septuagint Numbers 30:15 (Numbers 30:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

39 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

40 **Deuteronomy 20:7** And what man is there who has become engaged to a woman and has not taken her? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the war and another man take her.” **read ›**

41 **Deuteronomy 22:13** If any man takes a wife and lives with her, and then hates her, **read ›**

42 **Deuteronomy 24:1** If anyone takes a wife and lives with her, and it comes about that she does not find favor in his eyes because he has found some indecent thing in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hands, and sends her out of his house, **read ›**

43 **Deuteronomy 24:3** and the latter husband hates her, writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hands, and sends her out of his house, and the latter husband who took her as his wife dies, **read ›**

44 **Deuteronomy 24:4** the former husband who sent her away may not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the Lord your God; and you shall not defile the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance. **read ›**

45 **Joshua 23:12** For if you turn away and join yourselves to these nations that are left among you, and make marriages with them, and mingle with them and they with you, **read ›**

46 **Ezra 4:20** And mighty kings have been in Jerusalem, ruling over all the land beyond the River, and full tribute and a share were given to them. **read ›**

47 **Ezra 7:11** And this is the account of the decree which Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the book of the words of the commandments of the Lord and of his statutes for Israel: **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

48 **Ezra 9:9** For we are slaves; yet in our slavery the Lord our God has not forsaken us, but has extended mercy to us before the kings of the Persians, to give us reviving, so that they might raise up the house of our God and restore its desolate places, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem. **read ›**

49 **Psalms 7:14** Behold, he has been in labor with unrighteousness; he has conceived trouble and brought forth iniquity. (Septuagint Psalm 7:15 (Psalm 7:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

50 **Song of Solomon 6:3** I am my kinsman's, and my kinsman is mine; he shepherds among the lilies. **read ›**

51 **Ezekiel 14:4** Therefore speak to them, and you shall say to them: Thus says the Lord: Any man of the house of Israel who sets his thoughts upon his heart, and places the punishment of his unrighteousness before his face, and comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him in the things in which his mind is entangled, **read ›**

52 **Amos 3:13** Hear, O priests, and testify to the house of Jacob, says the Lord God Almighty. **read ›**

53 **Amos 5:5** But do not seek Bethel, and do not go into Gilgal, and do not cross over to the Well of the Oath; for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall be as though it were not. **read ›**

54 **Habakkuk 2:16** You also, drink your fill of dishonor instead of glory; be shaken, O heart, and quake; the cup of the right hand of the Lord has come round upon you, and dishonor has gathered upon your glory. **read ›**

55 **Malachi 2:15** And did he not do good? And a remnant of his spirit. And you said, "What else does God seek but seed?" So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not forsake the wife of your youth. **read ›**

56 **1 Esdras 4:20** A man leaves his own father who brought him up, and his own country, and clings to his own wife, **read ›**

57 **1 Esdras 7:11** and all the sons of the captivity together, for they were purified; for the Levites were all purified together. **read ›**

58 **1 Esdras 8:70** For both they and their sons have married their daughters, and the holy seed has been mixed with the foreign nations of the land; and from the beginning of this matter the leaders and the nobles have shared in this lawlessness." **read ›**

59 **1 Esdras 9:9** and do his will, and separate yourselves from the nations of the land and from the foreign wives." **read ›**

60 **Tobit 7:14** And he called Edna his wife; and taking a scroll, he wrote a contract and sealed it. **read ›**

61 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:13** their offspring is cursed. For blessed is the barren woman who is undefiled, who has not known a bed of transgression; she will have fruit at the visitation of souls. **read ›**

62 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:5** How has he been counted among the sons of God, and how is his lot among the holy ones? **read ›**

63 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:1** In three things I was made beautiful, and I stood up in beauty before the Lord and men: harmony among brothers, and friendship among neighbors, and a wife and husband who suit each other. **read ›**

64 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:1** Blessed is the husband of a good wife; the number of his days will be doubled. **read ›**

65 **Wisdom of Sirach 33:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

66 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:10** in her virginity, lest she be defiled and become pregnant in her father's house; when with a husband, lest she transgress, and when married, lest she be barren. **read ›**

67 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:11** With their seed a good inheritance will remain; their descendants are within the covenants. **read ›**

68 **2 Maccabees 14:25** Nicanor urged Judas to marry and have children; Judas married, settled down, and shared in the common life. **read ›**

69 **2 Maccabees 14:36** So now, O holy Lord of all holiness, keep undefiled forever this house that has so recently been purified." **read ›**

70 **3 Maccabees 6:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

71 **4 Maccabees 18:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

72 **1 Enoch 15:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

73 **Mark 10:7** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, **read ›**

74 **John 2:14** In the temple he found those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, and the money changers sitting there. **read ›**

75 **John 2:16** To those who sold the doves, he said, "Take these things out of here! Do not make my Father's house a marketplace!" **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

76 **Romans 3:1** Then what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the profit of circumcision? **read ›**

77 **Romans 14:14** I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean of itself; except that to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. **read ›**

78 **1 Corinthians 1:16** I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. **read ›**

79 **1 Corinthians 6:11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Spirit of our God. **read ›**

80 **1 Corinthians 7:5** Do not deprive one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to fasting and prayer, and come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. **read ›**

81 **1 Corinthians 7:10** But to the married I command, not I but the Lord, that a wife not separate from her husband— **read ›**

82 **1 Corinthians 7:11** but if she does separate, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband—and that a husband not send away his wife. **read ›**

83 **1 Corinthians 7:12** But to the rest I say, not the Lord: if any brother has an unbelieving wife, and she agrees to live with him, let him not send her away. **read ›**

84 **1 Corinthians 7:13** And if a woman has an unbelieving husband, and he agrees to live with her, let her not send him away. **read ›**

85 **1 Corinthians 7:14** For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. **read ›**

86 **1 Corinthians 7:15** But if the unbeliever separates, let him separate. The brother or sister is not enslaved in such cases; but God has called us in peace. **read ›**

87 **1 Corinthians 7:16** For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? **read ›**

88 **1 Corinthians 7:34** There is also a distinction between the wife and the virgin. The unmarried woman cares for the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But the married woman cares for the things of the world, how she may please her husband. **read ›**

89 **1 Corinthians 7:39** A wife is bound by law for as long as her husband lives. But if her husband falls asleep, she is free to marry whom she wishes, only in the Lord. **read ›**

90 **2 Corinthians 6:14** Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? **read ›**

91 **2 Corinthians 7:1** Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. **read ›**

92 **2 Corinthians 11:2** For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy. For I promised you in marriage to one husband, that I might present you as a pure virgin to Christ. **read ›**

93 **Ephesians 5:26** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **read ›**

94 **Ephesians 5:27** so that he might present the church to himself in glory, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and blameless. **read ›**

95 **Ephesians 5:31** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. **read ›**

96 **1 Thessalonians 4:4** that each one of you know how to control his own body in sanctification and honor, **read ›**

97 **1 Thessalonians 4:7** For God called us not for uncleanness, but in sanctification. **read ›**

98 **Hebrews 13:4** Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled; but God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. **read ›**

99 **1 Peter 3:7** You husbands, in the same way, live with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor to the woman as to the weaker vessel, as also being joint heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. **read ›**

100 **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now also saves us—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *56 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Isaiah 33:14

Matthew 5:32 · 5:42 · 10:5 · 18:3 · 18:6 · 19:4 · 19:8 · 19:12 · 26:24

Luke 1:52 · 6:30 · 9:20 · 9:35 · 14:26 · 16:18 · 16:19 · 16:22 · 16:23 · 16:29

John 13:33

Romans 2:24 · 4:11

1 Corinthians 3:2 · 4:15 · 5:7 · 5:11 · 6:9 · 6:13 · 6:15 · 6:16 · 7:1 · 7:3 · 7:7 · 7:9 · 7:17 · 12:31 · 15:22

2 Corinthians 4:4

Galatians 2:19 · 4:19

Ephesians 2:3 · 2:12 · 4:5 · 5:5

Philippians 3:8 · 3:12 · 4:8

1 Timothy 3:2

Titus 1:6 · 1:15

Hebrews 2:2 · 5:11

1 Peter 1:14 · 1:21

Jude 1:7

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What does it mean that the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife (1 Corinthians 7:14)?” on May 18, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “What does it mean that the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife (1 Corinthians 7:14)?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-it-mean-that-the-unbelieving-husband-is-sanctified-by-the-wife. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 4.”

© 2026 The Historic Faith. Selection, arrangement and editing by THF; machine-compiled text and public-domain quotations are not claimed. For personal study; please don’t republish.

THEHISTORICFAITH.COM

THE END OF THIS STUDY