led, maintained, in a spirit of reverence to your husbands, see Eph. v. 33).

**3.] Of whom** (the wives; you, who  
are addressed) **let [the adornment] be not  
the outward adornment of braiding of  
hair** (see 1 Tim. ii. 9), **and putting round**  
(the head, as diadems, or the arm, as  
bracelets, or the leg, as anklets, or the  
finger, as rings, or generally, hanging the  
body round with) **of golden ornaments, or  
of putting on of dresses** (“the sex which  
began first our engagement to the necessity of clothing, having still a peculiar propensity to be curious in that, to improve  
the necessity to an advantage”):

**4.]** **but** (rather let their adornment be) **the  
hidden man of the heart** (here it is not, as  
in Rom. ii. 29, merely the inner man as  
distinguished from the outer man, which  
unbelievers have as well as believers: and  
that for this reason, that the *hidden man*  
is not here that which is *to be adorned,*  
but is itself the adornment: and consequently is of necessity the regenerate life  
itself in its freshness and beauty. And  
this is designated as being **of the heart,**—  
consisting in the heart, changed, and  
lovely with Christian affections and graces),  
**in** (standing in, as its condition and element) **the incorruptible [ornament] of  
the meek and quiet spirit** (“*meek,* as  
rising no disturbance itself: *quiet,* as  
bearing mildly disturbance from others.  
To the former quality ver. 5 refers; to the  
latter, ver. 6.” Bengel), **which** (viz. the  
meek and quiet spirit) **is in the sight of  
God** (who looks not at the appearance, but  
at the heart) **of great price** (the word is  
that used for costly ointment and raiment).

**5.] For** (enforcing of the same by  
example) **in this manner** (i. e. with the  
ornament of a meek and quiet spirit) **formerly the holy women** (*holy,* as in Luke  
i. 70; Acts iii. 21; Eph. iii. 5; women of  
blessed note in the sacred history as servants of God) **also** (as well as you, if you  
obey), **who hoped in God** (i. e. whose hope  
was directed towards, and rested in, God),  
**adorned themselves, being in subjection  
to their own husbands** (this clause describes the state in which the adornment  
was put on, to which it belonged: being  
thus in subjection, they were adorned with  
the meek and quiet spirit which belongs to  
it):

**6.]** **as** (e. g.) **Sarah obeyed** (the  
tense in the original indicates not so much  
the habit, as her whole course of obedience  
considered as a completed whole) **Abraham, calling him lord** (Gen. xviii. 12): **of  
whom ye have become** (i. e. by your implanting through faith into the family of  
faithful Abraham, It ought properly to  
be rendered **ye became,** referring back to  
the precise time when they were so made;  
but cannot be so expressed in English)  
**children, if** (i.e., as A.V. “as long as,” but  
better and clearer) **ye do good, and are  
not afraid of any sudden fear** (to what