

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 9TH - 10TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 PETER

### MUTUAL SUBMISSION (1 PETER 3:1-7) BEING AN EXAMPLE TO A LOST SPOUSE

This section was written for people with a non-believing spouse, but the principles work for all married couples.

- **Submission** means to *voluntarily yield rights or will to someone else's as an expression of love.* Wives are called to do this unless the desires of their husband contradict the Bible.

### SUBMISSION IS A FORM OF LEADERSHIP

Peter encourages women to do this because it may actually lead their husbands to Jesus. This is done by actions, not by words.

- **Living a pure and reverent life sets a powerful example similar to Jesus** when He submitted to a non-believing court and Roman gov't for the sake of saving many.

### SEARCHING FOR A DEEPER BEAUTY

V3-4 do not condemn women looking attractive. Peter encourages women to **keep outward beauty in perspective while striving to grow in their internal character.**

- Women are told to value the **"imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit."** This isn't weakness, but a confidence and strength that knows their identity in God.

### STRONG WOMEN FROM THE PAST

Peter refers to powerful women of the OT that displayed an adornment of gentleness and respect like Sarah, the wife of Abraham.

- Sarah's attitude was of a **patient and loving submission that did not arise from fear or intimidation.** This means that husbands also have a serious command to also love, respect, and submit.

### MEN, THIS GOES FOR YOU TOO!

Peter makes it clear that "in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way."

- **Submission in a marriage is mutual.** Husbands must also lay down desires and wants because they love and want to honor their wives. **It is only in balanced respect and love that relationships work and honor God.**

### WEAKER PARTNER?

Peter is not saying that women are less intelligent or less importance than men. This is a little statement saying that men are more physically strong most of the time.

- This is a **warning for men to never take advantage or intimidate their wives (or any woman) because they may be physically more powerful.**

### YOU CANNOT SEPARATE THE TWO

If men do not honor their wives "as coheirs of the grace of life" in how they treat them, their spiritual lives will suffer.

- V7 implies that **if men don't love their wives similarly to how Christ loves us (Ephesians 5:25), God will not hear or honor their prayers. We cannot separate how we treat others and our relationship with Jesus.**

### INTERACTIONS (1 PETER 3:8-12)

#### HOW WE INTERACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE

Though Peter is referring to relationships amongst Christians, we should apply these teachings to how we treat all people.

- To be **"like-minded" is to live in harmony with people.** The key is to **not get hung up on minor issues, but to build a relationship on things we have in common.** It also means we strive to be selfless.
- We're called to be **sympathetic**, which means we grieve with people when they're hurting.
- We're called to **love**, which means we want what is best for others.
- We're to be **compassionate**, meaning we have a gentle heart towards people
- And we're called to be **humble**, which means we have an accurate view of who we are.

#### "NOT PAYING EVIL FOR EVIL"

This statement is counter-cultural despite the era in which one lives. **When Christians are insulted or treated wrongly, we are not to retaliate but repay by "giving a blessing."**

- Is this hard? Absolutely, but **it is the model Christ set for His followers and the best way to reconcile arguments and win people to Jesus.**

#### "TO THE ONE WHO WANTS TO...SEE GOOD DAYS"

If we want to have contentment and peace, we must treat others well and avoid evil actions. Peter alludes to Jesus' teaching in Matthew and tells us to **avoid speaking evil, turn away from evil deeds, and seek peace.**

- V12 says, **"the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous...But the face of the Lord is against those who do what is evil."**

### HOSTILE (1 PETER 3:13-22)

#### A PIVOTAL VERSE

V13 starts what will be the dominant theme for the rest of 1Peter. "Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good?" refers to persecution and intimidation towards Christians.

- **Under normal circumstances, when we do what is right and moral, we shouldn't expect backlash and hate. But circumstances aren't always normal.**

### "IN THIS LIFE, THERE WILL BE SUFFERING" (JOHN 16:33)

Suffering is a part of everyone's life, but people who commit to the teachings of the Word will encounter a unique hatred.

- Jesus assures His followers to "be courageous" because though there are persecutions, He has "conquered the world." We're told to "not fear...or be intimidated" by the threats of this world.

### WE DON'T HAVE TO FEAR IF...

We can only live without fear if we **"regard Christ the Lord as holy"** and if we are **"ready at any time to give a defense...for a reason for the hope that is in [us]."**

- **We must submit to God as our Lord and commit to living in a biblical manner. When we commit to Jesus, we don't have to cower in fear because our hope is in Him.**

### ... BUT WE STILL LIVE IN GENTLENESS AND RESPECT

We are to be kind and respectful to other Christians, non-Christians, and even people who seek to harm or ridicule us. By acting this way, we open up the door for truth to prevail, either in this life or in the judgment to come.

- We don't do this well in American Christianity because **culture steers our responses more than the example of Jesus.**

### THE PERFECT EXAMPLE (V18)

Jesus, "the righteous," humbly and lovingly suffered for us, "the unrighteous," so "He might bring [us] to God." Jesus was "put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit."

- We're to go through a similar metamorphosis in which we allow Christ to resurrect us from our fleshly desires into a life led by the Holy Spirit.

### WE MAY FEEL LIKE WE ARE ALONE

V19-20 is difficult to interpret but could be referring to the ridicule Noah faced while building the Ark. Peter compares Noah's family, a small minority, to Christians in his day being persecuted by the Roman Empire.

- The point is that **God not only sees persecution but is faithful to sustain and reward those who hold onto the faith.**

### HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO BAPTISM?

Noah and his family were saved by water from evil people that were destroyed by water. Similarly, our salvation, in which baptism is symbolic of, gives us the ability to endure persecution and respond in a way that honors God.

- But, if we deny such salvation, we are not only incapable of handling hard times well, we will be spiritually lost.

### WE HAVE SECURITY AND HOPE IN JESUS

We find strength currently and in the future in hard times because of our assurance that **Jesus sits firmly on His throne now and forever.**

- This life is temporary, but where we put our hope and trust as we push through this life's trials will have eternal ramifications. **Are we finding strength in the stability of Jesus?**

### TO THE ONES WE LOVE THE MOST

- Married couples are called to **mutually submit.** This means we're willing to yield our rights for the benefit of the other person.
- We're to also live by and display the beauty of biblical principles. In this, we show love and possibly convince a non-Christian spouse to have faith in Jesus.
- **Loving our spouse and Jesus are inseparable.**

### TO PRACTICALLY EVERYONE

- We're to live harmoniously as much as possible. This means minor disagreements shouldn't become major schisms.
- We are to also avoid slander, gossip, and not "repaying evil with evil."
- To achieve this, we must be **sympathetic, gentle, humble**, want the best for others (**love**), and **live in and show God's grace.**

### TO THOSE THAT ARE HOSTILE

- Loving those who hate and ridicule us is one of the most counter-cultural and Jesus-honoring things we can do.
- It's going to get increasingly more difficult. This is why **we must find strength through prayer and the promises of God's Word.**
- We must live in love, not fear. If Jesus is our Lord, we have nothing to fear.

### BECAUSE HOW WE TREAT OTHERS MATTERS

- Jesus said, **"everyone will know you are My disciples if you love one another."**
- **To truly love others, we must share the truth, but in order to share truth, we must first demonstrate its power by how we treat ALL people, regardless of how they think and act or how they have treated us. This is the Jesus model.**