

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 10TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 PETER

INWARD BEAUTY (1 PETER 3:1-7) "THEY MAY BE WON OVER..."

This section is not promoting marriage to unbelievers in hopes of "saving" them. 2 Corinthians 6:14 plainly states that believers are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

- Peter was addressing women who came to Jesus before their husbands, in a culture where it was unheard of for a wife to have a different religion than the husband.

"WITHOUT A WORD"

This does not mean that an unbelieving husband is won without the wife ever speaking. Instead, the wife is not to rely on constant arguments or "a lot of speaking" to win her husband and should trust that her character and conduct will be what ultimately "wins him over."

- As Christians, **we should strive to win the lost and not arguments.**

WHERE DO WE FIND VALUE?

Peter does not forbid women from fixing their hair, wearing jewelry, or nice clothes. In a culture that placed a high value on these external things, Peter wanted to ensure that women did not lose their sense of value.

- **Peter is talking about a beauty that is available to every woman and is found inward, not in a store.**

WHITENED TOMBS

In Matthew 23:25-28, Jesus pioneered the idea that what is on the inside (heart and character) of a person is what matters.

- The application of these verses are the same for everyone, not just women. **We cannot place stock in external appearances while ignoring what is on the inside.**

QUALITIES OF GREAT WORTH IN GOD'S SIGHT

Instead of focusing on qualities that will fade, Peter says, a woman should strive to have the "imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit."

- A gentle and quiet spirit is evident in someone who **lives under perfect control, is not given to panic, but still displays strength.**

"HOLY WOMEN WHO PUT THEIR HOPE IN GOD"

Peter then uses the example of Sarah's loving submission to her husband, Abraham, to encourage Christian wives to do the same.

- She willingly followed her husband's lead into uncharted territories. She was motivated by love and reverence for her husband, and not fear and intimidation from her husband to do what was right.

A MUTUAL SUBMISSION

To "live with [our] wives" means more than cohabitation. It's making time to be physically, emotionally, and spiritually together.

- "In an understanding way" or "according to knowledge" (KJV), speaks to the desire to understand and know your wife. It means being sensitive to her needs with a desire to meet them.

"COHEIRS OF GRACE"

Acknowledging that there is a physiological difference between a man and a woman does not make a woman inferior or less than. Instead, as the "weaker partner," a husband is to treat his wife like an expensive, beautiful vase containing a precious treasure.

- **We give our wife the honor that is due them because she is precious to us.**

"SO THAT YOUR PRAYERS WILL NOT BE HINDERED"

Does this mean that God will not hear the prayers of a husband who does not treat his wife the way he should? Possibly, if he is far from God.

- If a husband is not treating his wife as he should, then **he will not know how to pray for his wife if he even desires to do so.**

DO NO EVIL (1 PETER 3:8-12)

"BE LIKE-MINDED"

To be like-minded does not mean we are all going to be the same and there can be no differences of opinion. Instead, the word used in the original text translates to "live in harmony."

- God has designed the Church to have both unity and diversity. The key is that we are not divided because of our differences.

HARMONIOUS TRIO

Peter points out that the relationships within the Church should be full of sympathy, compassion, and humility.

- **Compassion** is having a "tender heart" for a person as they endure suffering. **Being sympathetic** is understanding someone's feelings and assisting. **Humility** is putting the interest of others ahead of your own.

"SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT"

Peter borrows from Psalm 34:12-16 to further convey the idea of **seeking and pursuing peace**, turning from evil, and receiving a blessing.

- The verb used to describe our pursuit of peace is a hunting term, meaning "**to pursue with intensity, determination, and persistence.**"

DO NO EVIL

When we, as believers, experiences insults or evil, we are not to respond with insults or evil, instead, we repay evil with a blessing.

- Jesus taught that there is no reward in loving those who love us (Matthew 5:44-47). However, when we pray for and forgive those who wrong us, we will "inherit a blessing" and "see good days."

BE READY (1 PETER 3:13-22)

BE READY TO ENDURE SUFFERING

Peter reminds the Church that there are blessings for us when we suffer while living by the right standards, according to the Word of God.

- The presence of suffering should not cause us to shrink back from doing good because we are fearful or intimidated (Matthew 10:28).

BE READY TO REMEMBER

Instead of running from faith, we are to "**regard Christ the Lord as holy,**" and when the opportunity presents itself, we give a reason for the hope that is in us.

- We remember that Christ is "set apart," **He is greater than our situation.** As Lord, **He is fully in control** and not the ones doing the harm.

BE READY TO GIVE A REASON FOR OUR HOPE

What sets us apart from an unbelieving world is a living hope (1:3). We have not placed our hope in an empty way of life because we have been brought out of darkness into glorious light.

- We are supposed to be ready to seize the opportunity to share the gospel with someone when asked about our hope.

BE GENTLE AND RESPECTFUL

We should be passionate about what God has done for us. There should be emotion when we think about God's goodness and mercy.

- However, we should be **gentle and respectful** in our explanation of our reason for hope. **We should not be forceful, patronizing, or critical.**

BE CONFIDENT

The last section of chapter 3 secures our confidence that Jesus is victorious, He is superior to all powers, and there is nothing that can separate us from Him.

- In Jesus Christ, **the believer can face difficulties fearlessly and positively by remembering the significance of His death, burial, and resurrection.**

BE STEADFAST

Peter draws the comparison between Noah and his family and the believers currently suffering persecution.

- Noah and his family, similarly to the believers dispersed in Asia Minor, **were persecuted by the majority around them that were in disobedience to God.**

BE DEVOTED

The waters in Noah's day were sent as judgment to purify the earth of iniquities. Because Noah and his family devoted themselves to God, they were saved from the flood.

- The flood reminds us that **if we live a life pledged to God, we too will be saved from the coming judgment.**

WE HAVE HOPE BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL

- **Do we have a living hope?**
- **Have we placed our hope in anything other than gospel?**
- **Have you made a "pledge of good conscience toward God"?**
- **If not, what have we exalted to the place reserved for Jesus Christ?**