

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 16TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 PETER

## THE SAME WAY (1 PETER 3:1-7) LOOKING LIKE CHRIST

Twice in this short passage, Peter refers back to the example of Christ. God has chosen the relationship between a husband and wife to illustrate His relationship with the Church.

- This passage isn't meant to empower or oppress anyone. **Peter's words reveal how we should treat each other in healthy, growing relationships.**

### SUBMIT?!

Church culture likes to elevate or deny this word without looking to Scripture to define it. Some will zone in and believe they have found the Scripture that can be used to control others; others will zone out because we said it out loud.

- **Submission is a biblical term, and God has given us a clear example of what it means.**

### TO WIN THEM OVER

Wives (and husbands) can win their spouses to Christ when they yield their rights or will as an expression of love to their spouse.

- **This submission is always conditional: If the wishes, desires, or needs of the spouse are in direct conflict with the Word of God, then submission does not apply.**

### OUTSIDE AND INSIDE

Peter isn't saying that makeup and accessories are sinful; he's reminding us of what is truly seen when others see a believer.

- **When we demonstrate the strength of self-control (gentleness) and the calming influence of the Holy Spirit (quietness), we reveal the authenticity of our faith.**

### STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS

Peter shows us that strength of character is more powerful than forceful words or muscles. Fear and intimidation have no place in the Christian home or in our effort to win the lost.

- **Men, God did not give you your size and voice to be the king of your domain. Godly men love, listen to, and lead their families to Christ.**

## UNITY (1 PETER 3:8-12) FINALLY

Peter puts families first, then addresses our relationships with other believers. Knowing that we have the same mission, we should **ALWAYS** show sympathy, love, compassion, and humility toward one another.

- **Because of our relationship with Christ and other believers, we can see "good days" even when bad days are all around us.**

### GOOD, EVIL, AND BLESSING

Believers should not return evil for evil, insult for insult, or speak with deceit. When we do, we damage our families and His Church. The biggest price we pay is a loss of blessing.

- **Blessing isn't "stuff," it's the power and joy of the Lord in our lives and prayers. It's a blessing that will be shared among believers.**

## OUR SUFFERING (1 PETER 3:13-17) WHO WILL HARM YOU?

In a perfect world, good people are never attacked, but we don't live in a perfect world. Jesus clearly tells us that we will have trouble (John 16:33).

- **Sometimes, we will be attacked simply for doing what is right. This isn't a time for fear; it should trigger our hearts to share the hope our Lord gives us each day.**

### GENTLENESS AND REVERENCE

Without fear and intimidation, we don't have to argue in response to attacks on our good conduct.

- **As the accused, we give a defense of the hope within us. We aren't the prosecuting attorney trying to win the case, we're witnesses sharing what Christ has done!**

### GOOD CONSCIENCE

It's difficult to stand, speak, and be heard when we have a bad conscience. A bad conscience is broken and hardened to sin. A good conscience is one that reveals our sins and leads us to repentance.

- **A clear conscience is the result of regular confession, repentance, and remembrance.**

## THE FOUNDATION (1 PETER 3:18-22) CHRIST SUFFERED FOR US

Christ, "the Righteous," was "put to death in the flesh" and "made alive by the Spirit" to "bring you to God."

- Peter gets to the point: Christ suffered the cross to restore us to a relationship with God. **Our old "self" must die so we can be made alive in Christ.**

## CHRIST PROCLAIMED HIS VICTORY

Whatever you believe about vs. 19, don't miss the value of what Peter is saying.

- Christ proclaimed His resurrection and victory over sin and death to everyone. Our charge is to do the same. **Our lives should proclaim His victory to everyone—in the middle of our suffering—even to our accusers.**

### PROCLAIMING THROUGH BAPTISM

In the days of Noah, God sent a flood to destroy the world, and eight were saved in the Ark.

- **Today, the way of salvation is in a relationship with Christ, and we proclaim our new life to the world through baptism.**

## CHANGED (1 PETER 4:1-6) UNDERSTANDING SUFFERING

Christ is perfect and still suffered. As believers, we will still suffer, but the reason and result of that suffering have changed. Bluntly, we have spent enough time focused on satisfying ourselves through sin.

- **Now is the time to live in God's will because this is all the time we have left.**

### A NEW SOURCE OF SUFFERING

Before our salvation, we enjoyed our sins and were welcomed by the world. Now, because of our good conscience, we are convicted of our sins and refrain.

- **As a result, we endure the suffering of persecution for not joining a hedonistic culture. Our new goal is to reach that culture with grace and patience.**

### TIMING (1 PETER 4:7-11)

#### THE END IS NEAR

2,000 years ago, Peter reminded believers that Christ would return, and that statement is still true today. It's important that he called them to sober-mindedness and prayer.

- **As we face a culture set against a loving God, our response is thoughtfulness and prayer, not shouting and screaming.**

### TO ONE ANOTHER

We are called to love one another, be hospitable toward one another, serve one another, and show the grace of God to one another.

- **It's clear that we can only do this through the Word of God and the strength of God for the glory of God. Any other way is sin.**

### AT HOME

- **Our relationship with Christ should be seen in our relationships with family.**
- Submitting to one another is how we lead others to a relationship with Christ.
- Submitting doesn't allow for abuse, but it does give us an opportunity to display the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

### WITH BELIEVERS

- Sympathy, love, compassion, and humility are visible characteristics of real followers of Christ.
- Unity, fellowship, and effectiveness are visible attributes of a healthy church.
- **The blessing of God's presence is essential for those attributes to grow.**

### RECOGNIZING SUFFERING

- Our lives are filled with challenges, trials, and tests that bring suffering.
- **Some suffering is a result of our own sin, some is a result of others' sins, and some is because of our faithfulness.**
- **Christ didn't avoid suffering, and we shouldn't believe we will escape its reach.**

### OUR RESPONSE

- Our good conscience will reveal if our suffering is from our sin and lead us to repentance.
- **If we suffer for righteousness, the Holy Spirit will lead us to respond with truth, grace, thoughtfulness, and prayer.**
- **Has my response to accusation and persecution glorified God?**