

1 Peter Week 5

1 Peter 3

Recap

- The believer should be marked by integrity
- Public outworking of faith involves humility and submission
 - Civil
 - Economic
- Our example is Christ

1 Peter 3:1-6

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

Submission in the family

- Headship / submission grounded in core Biblical doctrines
 - Nature of the Trinity
 - Creation
 - Marriage as picture of Christ and the church
- Peter describes worst case scenario
- Examples of what this looks like:
 - Willingly acceptance of husband's leadership
 - Showing honor and deference even when you disagree
 - Not being overly pushy or assertive

Practical questions

- How do you think about your husband?
- How do you talk about your husband to others?
- Do you pray for your husband?

What submission is not

- Putting husband in the place of Christ
- Giving up independent thought
- Submitting to sin
- Keeping all problems within the family
- Fearful / timid

The 'how' of submission

- “in the Lord”
 - Submission flows from love for Christ
 - Heart attitude is critical
- Avoid the extremes
 - Aggressive – competing for / usurping leadership
 - Passive – contributing nothing to family decisions

Reasons for submission

- Salvation of unbelieving husband
 - Submission can soften hard-heartedness
- Sake of the Lord
 - “Adorning” – what characterizes us?

Roman hairstyles



Roman hairstyles



Reasons for submission

- Salvation of unbelieving husband
 - Submission can soften hard-heartedness
- Sake of the Lord
 - “Adorning” – what characterizes us?
 - Beautified souls vs bodies
 - Submission is beautiful
 - Imperishable beauty vs perishable, physical beauty
 - Sarah’s example: faith is demonstrated by submission
 - Confidence in God enables women to submit to husband without fear that such submission will be detrimental to her

1 Peter 3:7

7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Husbands are called to humble service

- “understanding way”
 - Knowledge is essential to fulfill this command
 - Knowledge is used for nurture
 - Practical questions:
 - Do we spend time getting to know our wives?
 - Do we know what our wives’ aspirations, fears, burdens and desires are? Are we proactively investing time in our marriage relationship?
 - Do you plan date nights or weekend getaways? Do you take the lead on making this happen, or do you sit back and wait for your wife to take the initiative?
 - Do you pray with your wife?

Husbands are called to humble service

- “showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel”
 - Matt 20:25-28

But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
 - Christian authority is not arbitrary, abusive or coercive; it serves
 - Husbands are to treat their wives as precious, valuable

Husbands are called to humble service

- “heirs with you of the grace of life”
 - Motivation for service
 - The great value of believers is demonstrated in the cost God paid to redeem them
- Avoid the extremes
 - Aggressive – selfish, harsh and domineering
 - “so that your prayers may not be hindered”
 - God will not suffer a husband to abuse his role without consequences
 - Passive – failing to take initiative and lead the family
 - Being a considerate husband doesn’t mean going along with anything the wife suggests
 - Husbands are responsible before God to exercise moral leadership
 - Ex. Adam

1 Peter 3:8-12

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For

“Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,

let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

1 Peter 3:8

⁸ Finally, ***all of you***, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Philippians 2:1-8

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

1 Peter 3:9-12

- Blessing comes from pursuing peace in the face of evil
- Being sinned against is not a rationale for sin
 - Matt 5:44 – “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”
 - Romans 12:17,21 – “Repay no one evil for evil... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”
 - Deut. 32:35 – “Vengeance is mine”
- No good comes from repaying evil for evil

1 Peter 3:13-17

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

1 Peter 3:13-14

- Practical benefit of doing good
 - Romans 13:3-4 – “Rulers are not a terror to good behavior, but to bad”
- Verse 13 is a rhetorical question
 - No true harm can come to the child of God
 - Suffering cannot do us ultimate harm because it cannot separate us from the love of Christ
- Suffering is not the opposite of blessing
 - Matthew 5:11 – “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

1 Peter 3:15

- “have no fear of them”
 - We need to exchange the fear of man for the fear of God
 - Example of Peter
 - Fear of God is the best antidote to fear of suffering
- “honor Christ the Lord as holy”
 - Recognize Christ’s lordship and sovereignty
 - “We should always fear sinning, but never fear suffering” (Harrell, Let’s Study 1 Peter, page 99)

1 Peter 3:15-17

- “always being prepared to make a defense”
 - What are we defending?
 - The reason for the hope that is in you
 - Our hope differentiates us from the world and provides the content of our witness
- How do we defend it?
 - “gentleness and respect”
 - Courteous words
 - “good conscience”
 - Complimentary lifestyle
- “when you are slandered”

1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

1 Peter 3:18

- Christ is the only one who truly suffered unjustly
- He suffered with a purpose: to bring us to God
 - Eph. 5:27 – “that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish”
- He suffered ‘once’
 - Hebrews 10:10-14 - “And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”
- The great exchange

Views on 3:19-20

1. Christ descended into hell and offered 2nd chance of repentance to sinners in hell (or released OT believers into heaven)

Reasons this is incorrect

- The souls of the righteous go to heaven, not hell (Luke 23:43)
- There is no 2nd chance for repentance after death (Luke 16:19-31)

Views on 3:19-20

2. “Spirits in prison” refers to fallen angels, not people. Christ descended into hell and proclaimed his victory and their doom

- Basis: 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6

Reasons this is incorrect

- Peter is clearly referring to those who disobeyed in the days of Noah
- “Patience waited” - there was opportunity for repentance for humans in Noah’s day, but not for fallen angels

Views on 3:19-20

3. Christ preached the gospel to Noah's generation through Noah, just as the Spirit of Christ preached through all OT prophets

- Spirits in prison are the souls of those alive in Noah's day who perished in the flood
- Deliverance of Noah and his family pre-figured salvation of Christ
- Peter is comparing the days of Noah to the last days after Christ

Baptism and the flood

- Baptism symbolizes passing through the waters of judgment
- “Not as a removal of dirt”
 - The act itself doesn’t save
- “appeal to God through the resurrection”
 - Baptism signifies union with Christ in his death and resurrection
 - Efficacy of baptism tied to resurrection

1 Peter 3:22

- Christ's ascension and reign are a promise to the believer that we will follow him to glory