

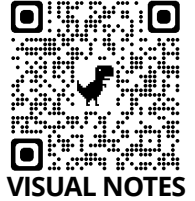
5: Revealing The God Who Saves (1 Peter 3:1-18)

Today we discover some practical ways to be faithful in *REVEALING THE GOD WHO SAVES* to our *family*, to our *faith family*, and to our *community*.

teachingnotes

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* Bible Translation: **NIV** (New International Version)

? **How am I revealing the God who saves to those I live and work around?**

Wives Revealing Christlikeness in the Home

1 Peter 3:1-2 (NIV)

Wives, in the same way **submit yourselves to your own husbands** so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when **they see the purity and reverence of your lives**.

In the same way as *WHAT?* Based on the context, followers of Jesus are to *"submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority"* (1 Pet 2:13a). Beyond spiritual leaders, that includes governing leaders & employers. And we are to submit **for the Lord's sake** - this is HIS will. *When we don't want to submit, we do...for Jesus.*

- Submitting to ungodly authorities might impact them eternally - even unbelieving husbands who watch their godly wives **WALK out purity and reverence**. While a Christian woman should never marry a non-Christian man (and vice versa), it is possible that the spouse who is now following Christ can certainly play a *HUGE ROLE* in pointing the other spouse to Jesus by their **behavior**, not just their **words**.
- Ladies: *Ask your husband to lead you spiritually* and then *point him to men who will show him how*. **DON'T GIVE UP!** Keep praying, keep asking, and keep demonstrating the goodness of Jesus through your **purity**.

Unfading Inner Beauty > Fading Outward Beauty

1 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV)

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it **should be that of your inner self**, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

Peter reminds women that beauty should be much more than skin deep. The goal of the Christian woman isn't to see how long you can look young & beautiful - which WILL eventually fade. Instead, it is to grow in the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

☀ **Scot McKnight**: *"External appearance is relatively unimportant, but internal virtue is the prime pursuit of life."*¹

Biblical Example of Godly Women

1 Peter 3:5-6 (NIV)

For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to **adorn themselves**. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

Sarah's submission and calling Abraham **"lord"** didn't mean she thought he was God, but she did place herself under her husband's authority, protection, & love - recognizing & respecting him as the leader of the home. Ladies are to follow in Sarah's footsteps and willingly place themselves under (submit to) their **husbands'** leadership. Make decisions as a team, but when your husbands don't listen to wisdom or to God, then just **DUCK** and let God get him!

¹ Scot McKnight, 1 Peter, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 184.

Husbands Revealing Christlikeness in the Home

1 Peter 3:7 (NIV)

Husbands, in the same way **be considerate** as you live with your wives, and **treat them with respect** as the weaker partner and as **heirs with you of the gracious gift of life**, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Weaker partner is certainly not referring to mental or willful weakness. Peter is referring to **physical strength**. No man should threaten to harm his wife because he is physically stronger. Instead, men are to **be considerate** of our wives and **treat them with respect**. Christian husbands are to recognize our wives not as our servants, but as our **heirs with you of the gracious gift of eternal life!** Your Heavenly Father is HER Heavenly Father too! The forgiveness you have been given has been given to her too!

As your fellow heir, you are to **protect her**, not mistreat her. And if you DO mistreat her...then don't be surprised when her Heavenly Father stops listening to your prayers.

❓ **Has God been answering you lately?**

❓ What could God do in our homes if husbands & wives served one another like as God commands us through the Scriptures?

🌟 **Denny Burk:** "Our marriages are supposed to be saying something about the gospel...When a husband fails to love his wife; when a wife fails to follow the leadership of her husband; when a marriage breaks apart in divorce, we are actually saying something blasphemous about the Gospel, because marriages are supposed to be these little dramas of redemption put on display for the world."²

❓ How many marriages could have been salvaged if Christian wives would have submitted to Christian husbands & Christian husbands would have sacrificially loved and protected Christian wives?

✓ Some spouses might need to go home, shut the door, confess your selfishness, & ask for forgiveness.

The God who saves is REVEALED by Christlikeness in the Home.

God is REVEALED by the Unity & Humility of the Church

1 Peter 3:8 (NIV)

Finally, all of you, be **like-minded**, be **sympathetic**, **love one another**, be **compassionate** and **humble**.

Like-minded can also be translated as *harmonious* (NET) or *having unity of mind* (ESV). Followers of Jesus are to be UNIFIED in Jesus. A Church that is **sympathetic** hurts with one another and celebrates with one another. That's the kind of church that shows a family-kind of **love** for **one another**, people who are **compassionate and humble**. And the God who saves is REVEALED by the Unity & Humility of the Church.

God is REVEALED by the consistent witness of Christians

1 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, **repay evil with blessing**, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Standing before the Sanhedrin, the high priest commanded men strike Paul on the mouth. And *Paul quickly retaliated:*

Acts 23:3-5 (NIV) Then Paul said to him, "**God will strike you, you whitewashed wall!** You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!" Those who were standing near Paul said, "How dare you insult God's high priest!" Paul replied, "Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: 'Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.'"

Paul spoke TRUTH, but with the wrong attitude, immediately convicted by the authority of the Scriptures (Ex 22:28).

🌟 Robertson McQuilkin: "*In fact, the New Testament contains more than two hundred direct quotations of the Old Testament.*"³

✓ Paul and other writers of the New Testament Scriptures believed the authority of the Scriptures - WE SHOULD TOO.

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

² interviewed by Greg Koukl on STR podcast 'Denny Burk - The Meaning of Sex'

³ Robertson McQuilkin. Understanding and Applying the Bible, rev. ed. [Chicago: Moody, 1983, 1992], 20

1 Peter 3:10-12 (NIV)

For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For **the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous** and **His ears are attentive to their prayer**, but **the Face of the Lord is against those who do evil.**" * Psalm 34:12-16

❓ **Is God attentive to your prayers?** If not, could it be that your words are **evil** and **deceitful**? Do you turn TO **evil** rather than turn from it? Do you rather **FIGHT** than **pursue peace** with others.

✓ If you honor God with your **lips, turn from evil and do good, seek and pursue peace**, God sees and recognizes your **righteous** deeds and He is listening to your **prayer**!

Be Prepared for Persecution

1 Peter 3:13-14 (NIV)

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened."

The THEMES of our LIVES

1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

But in your hearts **revere** [set apart, honor] **Christ as Lord**. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

To **revere** [set apart, honor] **Christ as Lord** = no one else holds that position in your life. You might have earthly masters (people in authority over you). But **there is ONLY ONE LORD who should rule from the throne of your heart**. Persecuted or not, you must **be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have**.

- **"Answer"** - the Greek term *apologia*, meaning "defense". Christians must have the knowledge, wisdom, and character to share **WHY** we have **hope** in Jesus! That's one of several reasons why you **NEED** to get in the Scriptures and determine **WHY** you believe **WHAT** you believe.
 - We are **NOT** to **answer** with pride or angry tones, but **with gentleness and respect**. We might still be mistreated, but we don't respond in kind, because **the God who saves is REVEALED by the consistent witness of Christians**.
- ✓ Do your best to leave the door open for the next conversation with a non-Christian.

1 Peter 3:17-18 (NIV)

For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For **Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God**. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

The reason we can **suffer** while **doing good** is by remembering what Jesus did for us! The **righteous** One **suffered** to make payment for our **sins**. He died for us, let's live for Him!

👉 It's our task and privilege to be the people REVEALING THE GOD WHO SAVES to our family, to our faith family, and to our community.

❓ **Do you KNOW Jesus? Is He LORD over your life? If not, call us because WE WANT to HELP answer your questions!**

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (850-673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (850-464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).