

The Influence of a Godly Wife

Lessons from 1 Peter 3 for Wives in Persecution

By Anthony Kim

We've been going through 1 Peter chapter 3. I'm sorry, 1 Peter ending with chapter 2. We are going to begin with 1 Peter chapter 3 this evening.

I want us to kind of step back from where we are at in the text in this way. I want us to remember that first Peter was written during heavy heavy amount of persecution that was bringing a lot of fear towards Christian throughout the Roman Empire. And so Peter spoke so clearly on how we as Christians ought to be, not on the defense, but on the offense. Not on the defense, but on the offense. To not hide back when persecution is coming, but to go head on knowing why we are here as Christians. We're not here for our best life now. As someone once said, we're not here to have success in our career primarily, not success even in our marriage primarily, not to be successful in our political opinions namely, but one thing was on Peter's heart, inspired by the Holy Spirit, was that he would represent his Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, faithfully, faithfully in all endeavors in life.

And we were going through different social orders starting with government and the kings and governors today presidents and governors. And then we went into the next social order which was employer and employee relationship back then masters and servants. And now we're going to go into the next social order which is marriage. So, we're going smaller and smaller starting with the wide down to the local area as it were of the concentric circle, the family dynamics primarily with the husband and the wife.

We're going to touch on the wives this evening. Next Sunday, Lord willing, I will preach speak to the husbands and then the last social order will be on the local church.

Now, as I mentioned, persecution was headon. Nero was the emperor. He was severely attacking the Christians heavily with death. What we see today is nothing like it was back then. It was happening on a daily basis. Just think of what happened in just recently but multiplied times 100. Think of how much that would affect you as a Christian. And so Peter is he wants to counsel the Christians. He wants to make sure that they're in a good place because we're not here for ourselves. We were bought with a price. Amen. By the precious blood of Christ. He mentions that over and over again in the text.

Our life is not our own. And he wants to know what that life is like, how beautiful it is. Despite of what's going on externally, there is something happening internally. It's that it's it's it's the word to sum it up. It's precious as he would say over and over again. And he would say it not in the sense you're precious, but that uh person to person, but mainly God sees you as precious.

Remember that that you are precious in the sight of God and he's going to bring that out to the wise. Because you know what?

In Peter's time, there were a lot of uh wives um unbeliever unbelieving wives becoming Christians and their husbands were not. And if you know something about the dynamic of a relationship, um the man is the head of the household, right? The man is the head of the wife. Ephesians chapter 5. And so you see passages for example uh in the book of acts where the Philippian jailer was uh saved and then his whole family because what would happen is the family would uh live their life according to the husband's religion but that was not the case when it was reversed when the wife became a Christian no the the the family didn't just you know follow the same religion so it was extra difficult for the wife to experience being a Christian knowing that they're not going to follow. They're not going to follow.

And so he puts the attention of but you know what? Don't think about yourself. Think about God and how he sees you primarily. Don't put your attention on yourselves because you know what? There's weakness in everyone. But he's going to share some of the weaknesses that women fall into because of this dynamic.

So let's go right into it now. I want to share with you what was on the heart of Peter. He starts off with likewise likewise you wives be in subjection to your own own husbands that if any obey not the word they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wise.

So let's just start with the word likewise. He's referring to what has happened in the past text and that's to the point of how to live with an unjust harsh master. You remember that? Remember that part of the text where yes, there might be good uh masters that are just that's best case scenario, right? Who wouldn't want to be under a good employer? But there are times when there's going to be unjust and you're going to have to suffer for it. And that that was the term unjust suffering. And there was a special thing with that relationship with the Lord. And we see that pictured in the text that I preached on two Sundays ago, which Jesus was unjustly suffering for us, wasn't he? And there were some examples that we are to follow and there's examples that we are not to follow. Namely, we were not to pay for our sins on the cross. But there are examples step by step to the gospels of how he displayed himself and how we ought to display ourselves.

And so he says likewise when you experience unjust suffering ye wives be in subjection. Oh that's hard. Our flesh will resist authority. Remember I preached on that a couple times. How many times the word subjection comes? Well, it comes namely in all aspects of social order. Being in subjection to your government, be in subjection to your master. And now we see the same word, be in subjection, ye wives, to your own husbands, to your own husbands.

Let me just say a word to those that are single and are aspiring to get married. You don't look for submission as equality before marriage. Submission happens under the covenant relationship through marriage and only then and if somebody tells you you need to submit to me before marriage, that person's in sin, just going to call it as it is. And you don't follow someone that's telling you to do something that you're not covenant in relationship. How many times does immorality happen? Hey, let's have unmarital sex. And how many girls fall into that trap? That's sinful submission, isn't it? Or anything illicit. Hey, let's do something illegal. That is sinful

submission. So, he's not talking about that. He is talking about subjection to your own husband. You are married. That is part of the covenant, head of the house. Remember that. Ephesians 5.

And you come under your husband, your own husband, not any man, your own. That if any obey not the word, so to stop right there. One of the marks of a Christian is what? Obedience. And what exactly? Obeying the word. So here, even though he doesn't say it, that's an unbeliever. He's saying it, saying the one that doesn't follow the word, that's an unbeliever. So he's now speaking to a Christian wife with an unbelieving husband.

That he says, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives. So he's saying look when you're in this specific situation when you are trying to win your husband he says yeah you can try to speak the word namely his word not your words and you bring about his word and and he's not obeying well yeah clearly he's an unbeliever right in 1 Corinthians uh says that uh the person that is what unconverted cannot receive the things of the spirit right because they are spiritually discerned and so he says but don't stop there then there's another way you can and that is by the conversation I'm sorry that also may without the word so what does that mean it's implied your conduct your conduct your character how many times have we seen the word conduct appear seven times actually seven times uh through 1 Peter chapter uh three with verse 16 but at this stage we have now reached the sixth uh part where Peter mentions about conduct just like with the word precious when you see words repeated by Peter it's pretty important we must pay attention to it so he's saying you can potentially it's not that you will. But that word may means potentially without the word be won by the conversation of the wives.

And it's it's a it's the idea that the subjection is what? To authority. God has placed the man under authority for the um the leadership of the husband towards the wife. And so we're seeing that again here repeated with the word subjection in the social orders.

And then he says in verse two, while they behold your chase conversation coupled with fear. So he's saying here that the unbelieving Christian, he's going to behold you. He's going to watch you. He's going to pay attention. That's the word. That's what it means to behold. Pay attention. He's going to pay attention to one thing. He's going to be attentive to one thing. And it's your chasteed conversation. It means pure conversation. Going back to what I just talked about about uh a little step sideep on singleness that if someone tells you to fall into uh sinful submission that you're in sin.

So this word is important. chase pure meaning you're you're not wanting to fall into a lie that you're not saying things that is not going to be appropriate to winning your husband. So your conversation is supposed to be pure without any sin as it were. And what is a sinful thing that you're just arguing? Just arguing, arguing, arguing. Because you know what? Women have I think a more gift in an area of speech than men. How many arguments are won by women in a marriage? Think about that.

So, so women need to be very careful. And that's why I say when you have a conversation, make sure it's pure because you have a a special ability. Let's go back to Adam and Eve. Who was the one that got deceived? Who was the one that brought Adam? Words powerful effect. So let's be careful. So may it be with chase conversation and then not just with pure conversation but couple

that means bind this with one other thing with fear and that word fear is the fear of God that God is watching your conversation and that what you say it's going to be accountable.

So you might think, "Oh, it doesn't matter. It's just me and my my husband really with fear and it's you can look it up. It's the fear of God cuz what I say has an influence and may it be a good influence." Amen. That's the whole po point. Don't be scared of the situation. This is commendable to the the one that is speaking in pure conversation.

And so this is actually an encouragement. This encouraging words with I need to take this seriously. And if you do, absolutely it's an encouragement. Amen. Take the word of God seriously.

Then we go into verse three. whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plating the hair and of wearing of gold or of putting on of apparel.

So this is now we're going to see verses 3 and four the outer versus the inward adorning. And watch the word adorning. It's going to be repeated. So remember repeated words are important. So he starts off with the outward adorning and he's and he puts this in one sentence and that's very important. He puts plating the hair, wearing of gold and of putting on the peril doesn't mean don't do any of this stuff because then in the the last verse means don't put on any clothes essentially like that's not what God says here. So the idea is modesty. Modesty. Be modest in the way you put your hair. Be modest in the way you put on jewelry. Be modest in your clothing.

Because what our flesh likes to do, and this is where I was saying introduction, this is where the weakness is. Okay, I can't win my husband spiritually. So, I'm going to try to win him fleshly. And where does that go? See, we got to be very careful with the temporal life. I know all of us desire youthfulness. That's that's the cultural climate we live in, right? How many count them advertisements have you seen and I'm speaking to men as well of beauty products? Beauty products just they are a multi-billion dollar industry for a reason because they know that's your weakness is beauty. Women Women want it. Men desire to to see it.

So wouldn't you think then? Okay, if this is our prom, then I need to be also very careful with how I adorn myself outwardly. This is very important to God. We're going to see.

And so we go on into verse four. But let it be, let it be what you're adorning. Let it be the hidden man of the heart. the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price,

the hidden man of the heart. Now we're talking spiritual. Now we're talking about the inward heart, not the outside anymore. This is where he says in the sight of God of great price. That word great price is precious by the way. So we're seeing that word again repeated here. But let's look at the quality here. What is that hidden part of the heart that he's that God sees great price and that's not corruptible? Meaning the outward is corruptible. Contrasting verse three. It's this even the ornament. So it does show ornaments show it reveals something externally but it starts within and it's this of a meek and quiet spirit.

So we're going talking about conversation still but it's no longer an accusation right anger bitterness it's not that it's actually Christlike character Matthew 5:5 blessed are the meek Matthew 11:29 calling Jesus Christ himself I am meek and lowly of heart you're putting on Christ.

That's the apparel you're putting on as it were of your heart. That's what you're cultivating here. And when you do that, God sees it. So it's no longer a fear. Oh, I'm going to say something bad, but it's now I'm favored. God sees this and he sees it as a great price.

Repeat that after you do these things. Repeat the word of God. Don't let the devil take the words of God from our heart. That's what the Bible says, right? The Holy Spirit reminds us these things. So when you feel that conviction, you have two ways to go about this conversation with your husband next time. Which path are you going to go into? Wisdom says there's only two paths. Go there, right?

And so he gives you this moment of wisdom instruction. Pay attention because you want to grow as a Christian. Here it is. Here's where God remember when you're dealing with unjust suffering. He's going to give you strength. But he won't give you strength if you're doing something what you justly deserve, which is, "Oh yeah, I feel bad because I just rebuked my husband or I just said something really offputting to my husband." Of course, you're going to feel bad. You should. If you don't feel bad, then I'm not a Christian.

But it's very important to understand this as you've got two paths. Obviously, if I'm speaking to a Christian, you already know this. You know within your heart of hearts that the spirit is talking to you whenever you're speaking with your husband. If you don't sense the spirit of God moving in you, there's something wrong. That should be a heart check. Why don't I sense the spirit of God in my conversation? Because I'm supposed to have spiritual conversations with my husband, not about my flesh, not about fleshly things primarily. Yes, it's okay. Like I mentioned, modesty is not priority. That's the key here. Amen. What is priority? Spiritual or fleshly? Wisdom says always spiritual first. The physical will take care of itself. Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." How many times do we verse that in our sinfulness? And how many times the world get it wrong all the time? But as a Christian, that's where we fix our mind. I love the text to fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. You know, when you fix your eyes on Jesus, he fixes your mind, fixes your heart. because when you fix your eyes on him, you are being received a right way to do do things. And so you just see Christlike character all over scripture.

So women, I wives, I plead with you, continue if you are having that meek and quiet spirit. And if you're not, repent. God has given you the ability to do so. and you'll receive that that joy, that peace that you deserve. Well, we don't deserve anything, but through his mercy, he gives us opportunities to receive his grace again and again. Amen.

Verse 5. For after this manner in the old time, the holy woman also who trusted in God adorned themselves being in subjection unto their own husband. Verse six, even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord, whose daughters ye are as long as you do well and are afraid and are not afraid with any amazement.

So he's going, "Look, I said a lot, but I'm going to give you an example." So question, do you have good examples in your life or bad examples in your life? Because Peter's saying, "I'm going to show you an example. I'm going to go way back to Abraham and Sarah." Yeah. It goes all the way back. This is nothing new.

And he says after this manner, after what I just spoke about, wives, saying in old time, holy woman, holy means pure, set apart to do what is right under God. And he says, also who trusted in God, that's that's it. Everything comes down to that. you trust in God that if you just do what God instructs you to do, if you trust him, that you adorn your uh yourselves like they did that they were in subjection unto their own husbands. Your marriage right now is no no different than what it was when they did. And he says, even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord. Now, here you'll notice it's spelled S A R A, not S A R A H. It's only because in the Greek text because I I saw this like was she lost here? Was she Sarah? S A R A I or was it S A R A? But it's just the way it was translated. Okay, so it was when she was a Christian uh a believer because she wouldn't be able to obey. Amen.

It says, "Obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord." That's just respect and obedience. That's all it is. Not big L. It's a lowercase L. All right. And then he says, "Whose daughters you are." I love that. Whose daughters you are. It basically means do what is right. See, when you're called a daughter, you're you want to be called a daughter of Sarah because it essentially means that you're doing what Sarah's doing and you're a daughter. in that way. And he says, "As long as you do well, just do this and you will be well." That's what it means. You'll be well. And here I love this. He says, "And are not afraid with any amazement." That look, you're going to be scared doing this. Peter's wants you to know it's going to be scary externally. It might not change anything, but he's saying don't pay attention externally. You might still be treated harshly, and you might be afraid of that, but he's saying don't be afraid with any amazement.

God sees it. That's what he's implying here. So, always keep God in the picture and you'll be all right. keep his word in front of you. You will be all right. Amen. Let's pray.

Father, thank you so much for your word. Thank you, God, that you give such clear instructions, God. And we know we can't do this outside of being a believer filled with your spirit. And so I just pray for our Christian wives here, Lord, that this would just be another reminder of how good you are, how good a father you are, that you want us to ultimately be obedient to you.

And that Lord, it's you that sees this as precious when we do what is right according to your word. It might not be received, but Lord, it's up to you, Lord, to change hearts. It's up to you, Lord, to provide the results of salvation. And so, Lord, we trust you in all of this. Please bless in this way, in this manifold way.

And I do pray for those unsaved husbands to be converted in your timing, Lord, that they will like their wives trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to believe in him for what he has done on the cross. Father, if he is your child, that will happen. We trust you. We thank you for all these things, all your blessings through your word tonight. For we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.