

Turn in your Bibles tonight to 1 Peter, Chapter 3. We will be looking at verses 1 through 7 this evening.

On this map you will see the five areas mentioned by Peter in the very first verse, line of this letter. Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. The people that this letter was directed to, Peter called, elect exiles of the Dispersion. These are primarily Jews that have been saved and are living throughout the Roman Empire. Many had come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and now are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus.

We know a lot of these people were those that were saved on the Day of Pentecost, which was 50 days after Jesus' resurrection as you can read beginning in the book of Acts Chapters 1 and 2.

On that day the Holy Spirit came, and the Apostles as well as other followers of Jesus go out into the streets of Jerusalem and start proclaiming the truths of God. Peter stands up and preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ and 3000 people were saved. It is in Chapter 2 that lists where these people are from, and all of these areas are listed in verses 9 to 12.

Even after that day we read in Acts Chapter 2 verses 42 through 47, that they devoted themselves to the Apostles teaching, breaking of bread, and prayer and in verse 47 it says that the Lord added to their number daily, those that were saved.

Even then the persecution was beginning, and it came to a head when in Chapter 7, Stephen, stood before the Sanhedrin and proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God, Jesus is God, that he is the Messiah, and salvation only comes through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection! Then what happened? Stephen was stoned and became a martyr for the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Persecution arose from that event as well and if we were to go to Acts 11, we will see that many scattered, dispersed back to their homes as well as many from Jerusalem left because of the persecution. So, the term of the Dispersion is twofold. The dispersed are those that are Jews but were not living in the proximity of Jerusalem and it is those that left Jerusalem because of the persecution.

By this time of Peter's letter, Paul, Peter himself, Silas, Timothy, John Mark, Titus had already completed missionary journeys to these areas. The Gospel had been proclaimed, Jews and Gentiles have been getting saved. So, Peter is checking back up on these fellow followers of the Lord Jesus Christ to encourage them and to disciple them with this letter.

Why did I share all that? I want you to know once again that you can trust the Bible as God's authoritative Word that it is the truth for all matters of life. What we are studying about are historic times, historic people, and historic events. With that, I want to announce, and we are doing this early, but on Saturday, February 24th, 2024 we are hosting a three hour Bible Conference with Dr. David Black and he is going teach on, Why You Can Trust the Bible? Go ahead and put that on your calendars and be ready to attend.

For tonight, let's go ahead and read our verses. 1 Peter 3:1-7.

1 Peter 3:1-7

¹ 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.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.

Peter, a lot like Paul, starts his letters speaking to Christian Doctrine. Then after a few points are made an application to daily living is made. Peter is writing to these followers of the Lord Jesus to encourage them during this time of persecution but also to share there is a daily life to live in obedience to God's Word in a way that gives all glory to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because again, and we say it a lot, once we are saved there is a life to live.

There are three God-ordained institutions on this earth.

1. Family or Home – Which begins with marriage between one man and one woman for life.
2. Government
3. Church

We learned a couple of weeks ago that as followers of Jesus Christ that we are to be subject to the laws of the land passed by the Government. In doing so we show ourselves to be blameless, that we have integrity, and that we want to honor the Lord Jesus with our lives.

But, there is a time if Government steps over into the realm that they seek to silence us and tell us we cannot preach the Word of God and we cannot disagree with perverted worldviews that are contrary to the truth of God's Word we are to protest. If they seek to keep us from gathering to worship our Lord and Savior and if they continue to try to push us out of the market square and the arena of ideas, we are to protest.

A life of obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ and the privilege to share the life changing Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ does not begin at the entry door of the church house and stop at the exit door of the church house. To live out this truth and to proclaim this truth does not stop at the entry door of the White House, Legislative house, School House, or entry door of our places of work.

Isaiah 55:11

¹¹ So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

There is a key phrase in that verse! It must go out to return! May we seek to proclaim the Gospel as often as we can.

Well, what is going on here. What is Peter actually addressing here? Peter has shown us in the previous verses that there is a life of submission to the Lord Jesus Christ and that submission should be evident in our lives.

Now, Peter speaks to the family setting. I called this teaching, Family Matters, as you look at this picture.



Matthew actually used this title back in April when talking about Abraham and Isaac. He gave me permission to use it again.

There are two ways we can look at those words. *Family Matters*, in the context that there are relational dynamics and there are matters of the home that are dealt with and lived out. Then, there is *Family Matters! When it comes to the eternal destination of each soul of our family, it matters!*

Let's look at the history of these regions again. I did some reading on each of these regions that are mentioned at the beginning of Peter's letter. Going back to around 800 BC you see that each of these areas were ruled by the Assyrian Empire, the Babylonian Empire, the Persian Empire, and now at this time they are all Roman Provinces under the rule of the Roman Emperor Nero.

What is one of the things that was common to these Empires? There were many but there is one thing specific that I am thinking of that they had in common. They were all pagan and wicked when it comes to their belief in God or a god that they worshiped!

The Gospel has spread and is spreading through these areas and people are getting saved. So, you have husbands getting saved and the wife is not, you have wives being saved and the husband is not. How do you live for the Lord Jesus in those scenarios? Peter, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, gives us some very practical ways. But these same principles can be used if both husband and wife are believers. I'll explain as we go through these verses.

1 Peter 3:1-2

¹ 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.

Likewise! To know what is meant here we have to look at the verses above these. What we saw from last week is that Jesus was obedient and submissive to God the Father, and he suffered in many ways though he had not done anything wrong.

Likewise, to use that word. In the creation of the family, God put an order that the husband was to lead the family and the wife was to be submissive or subject to her husband. Understanding the role that God gave the husband in his design of marriage. We see this in Genesis Chapter 2 that as God created Adam and then created Eve from his rib as a helper fit for him. Adam was to lead and Eve along his side as his helper.

Then after they both sinned, as part of the curse, God, told man that he would be cursed in the field. Women would have pain in childbearing but also the woman's desire would be for her husband as he leads the family.

But what if he is lost! Do I still have to show respect and submit to his leadership? After all he is pagan! He is a meat eating offered to idols, idol worshiper! Maybe this, he is still practicing Judaism, he doesn't believe that Jesus is the Messiah! Answer! Yes! What did we just read? As Jesus submitted to the Father that many would be saved, submit yourselves likewise in your conduct, your respectful and pure conduct so that they may be won even without a word.

Once we are saved what should be our goal anyway? We should want to see family members, loved one's as we say, friends, people saved! It is through our conduct that they should see Jesus Christ has changed our life. Not that we live perfectly but there should be evidence of our salvation.

The more I thought about this the more that it impressed upon me that once we are saved it should melt our heart towards all people because of the realization that if they don't get saved, they will spend eternity in Hell because we were headed that way ourselves. So, when we get saved, it isn't a, I am so much better than them! It is a Romans 7 moment:

Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Peter is explaining to the wife that the order does not change because you are saved, and your husband is not. Paul explained this as well to the church in Corinth.

1 Corinthians 7:12-13

¹² To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.

So, with the wife's respectful conduct to her husband and their faithful living to the Lord, as they see your obedience to the Lord, there is the possibility that the Lord will melt his heart and call him to salvation as well.

Peter addresses this idea of conduct even deeper in these next few verses. Let's read verses 3 through 6 again.

1 Peter 3:3-6

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.

At first glance this may look like certain hairstyles and dress are being admonished. Even in 1 Timothy, as the Apostle Paul was writing to Timothy in Ephesus about how followers of Jesus should live, Paul wrote these words.

1 Timothy 2:9

⁹ Likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire.

Neither of these portions of Scripture are a, Thou Shalt Not, have your hair braided or you can only have one specific hairstyle. This is not a, Thou Shalt Not, wear a little make up, wear a ring or rings, or wear earrings. What is going on here? What is Peter and Paul for that matter talking about?

Remember these areas are Roman provinces or ruled by Rome. In 1st century Roman culture, it was popular for women to braid their hair in many extravagant ways, putting gold jewelry in their hair as well as putting on an exuberant amount of gold jewelry through the wearing of bracelets, and earrings.

The purpose? To show wealth, with wealth to show status. It was seen as being provocative. To be looked at, to be thought better of in society. It was a pride thing!

Think about Ephesus for a moment. What pagan temple was in Ephesus? Temple of Artemis, also known as Diana. There were 1000 temple prostitutes at this temple and the clothing attire was very revealing. Also, in these Roman provinces the dress for the women was less than, can we say, modest.

Modesty is the main point Peter is making here. With modesty comes humility and purity that is precious in God's sight. This portion is directed towards married women, but this can also speak to you young ladies and single ladies.

So, ladies, married and unmarried! What is the purpose behind what you wear? To attract, to catch men's eyes. I don't want to be seen as an ole fuddy, duddy, and old prude. I'm not saying you can't seek to look nice but again is it modest and what is the motive.

Who are we living for? Man or God? If we are seeking God for his will in our life, we don't have try to attract a spouse. The Lord will lead them to us and us to them and the attraction will be there.

You realize it is God's will for us that we are pure, that we adorn the inner person and protect the purity of our thought, bodies, and actions. 1 Thessalonians Chapter 4 verses 3 to 8 is a command from God.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Even within the church we have let our purity and the modesty that is commanded by God go by the wayside for the sake of popularity, to allure, to entice, and in doing so, as in many sins, as it says in verse 8, we disregard, we reject, we tell God I am not going to listen.

I will live my own way and that puts us on dangerous ground on whether we are saved, or we have truly surrendered our lives to the Lord Jesus to the point of whether or not we have denied ourselves and have taken up our cross and tell the Lord Jesus, though none go with me I will follow in all aspects of our lives.

As we know, the outward beauty will one day go away. But what lasts until we take our last breath is the imperishable beauty that comes from within as a gentle, quiet spirit that seeks to honor the Lord Jesus is what

God is telling these wives to show to their lost husbands. Don't let the now freeing life of knowing Jesus become a hammer to continuously pound him with.

Allow that change that has taken place in your soul to be expressed in a gentle manner. Then Peter uses an example for the women to consider. Sarah, the wife of Abraham.

Why Sarah? Primarily Peter is writing to saved Jews. Who is considered the father of the Jewish nation? Abraham! Go back to our study in Genesis about Abraham. It is Abraham who God called out to go to a land that he would show Abraham. It is Abraham that God promised a great nation would come through him. It was Abraham's faith, belief God's promises that were accounted to him as righteousness.

Right alongside Abraham was Sarah! Sarah obeyed and subjected herself to Abraham's leadership as God directed Abraham in their lives to eventually, they had the child of promise, Isaac, and that great nation began. Let's answer a couple more questions that may arise as we look at these verses. Look at verse 6 again.

1 Peter 3:6

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.

Where did Sarah call Abraham Lord? How would you be considered one of Sarah's children?

In Genesis 18, three men appeared to Abraham. Two angels and the third being the preincarnate Christ. They had a two-fold purpose. Tell Abraham and Sarah they were going to have a child and to verify all of the outcry that has been going on about Sodom and Gomorrah's wickedness.

As the three men met with Abraham and Sarah was eavesdropping on the conversation. When she heard what the Lord said that he would return at this same time next year, Sarah would have a child. What did she do? She laughed and said this.

Genesis 18:12

¹² So Sarah laughed to herself saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"

Indicating that Sarah submitted to and respected Abraham's leadership of the family. This was all done to show a submission to God as well in following and obeying his Word.

How you become children of her is two-fold here as well. Again, the Jewish nation came from Abraham and Sarah, so it is in lineage. But we are talking deeper than just a physical connection. It is the spiritual connection of having faith in the Lord Jesus, obeying his Word, and seeking to allow that newness of life that comes through repentance flow through us to show a lost world of what Jesus accomplished through his death, burial and resurrection.

In that sense we are all children of God, and we are brothers and sisters in and through Jesus Christ and our conduct should be one of holiness and submissiveness to the Lord Jesus, and a gentle, respectful way to the lost and saved alike to, proclaiming the truth of Scripture so that all may be won to the Lord Jesus.

With that thought, let's speak to us men for a moment. Not that we haven't in some sense so far. But verse 7 says this to us men.

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.

Ladies it seems a bit unfair that you had 6 verses directed to the women and the men only got one. It isn't that the women were thought of as greater sinners. In that time and I would say even today, when a woman was saved and the husband was not, it was a much more difficult position because even in pagan beliefs the man was the leader of the home and if he was set against the salvation that comes through Jesus, it is a bit harder for the woman.

In turn, if the man gets saved, he is still leader of the home but now holds a responsibility to lead that home to faith in the Lord Jesus

Likewise, again, likewise to what? In a different context we submit ourselves to our wives. As we learned in the previous verses as our Lord submitted to God the Father, we husband's first submit to God in our lives. We do not relinquish the leadership role. We do not relinquish to love our wives as Christ loved the Church and gave himself for it. But in our submission, we submit to her needs as that encompasses the living with them in an understanding way.

We put our little world aside and we seek to meet their needs. Now remember, in context we are still talking about a man who has been saved and is living with an unsaved wife. Is he to terminate the marriage? No, we already covered that from 1 Corinthians. If the unsaved wife stays, the husband is to continue the marriage relationship and all that entails.

The husband is to nourish her emotionally and protect her physically. Honor her as the weaker vessel. As we know this weakness is not intellectually it is physically. The term weaker vessel is not a derogatory term. We have two vessels here. The man and the woman and woman is physically weaker. There is a difference in physical strength between men and women. God designed it that way. Therefore, the man is to protect her. If there is danger, I am to protect my wife!!

As we have talked about on Sunday's as well there are roles that God designed within the marriage relationship. You may have heard it taught this way, but I believe that there are three roles for the husband.

1. Priest – The husband is to nourish his wife spiritually as it says in Ephesians 5: we are to wash her with the word of God.
2. Protector – We talked about that. But as protector we protect her physically and emotionally with how we treat her.
3. Provider – We provide for the physical needs to the best of our ability.

The last couple reasons we should take care of our wives needs is that we have equal standing before God. As I studied this verse, I found two rules of thought concerning this verbiage of describing the wife as heirs to the grace of life.

1. The first one is speaking of salvation because of the word heirs. Heirs speak to a future receiving of an inheritance. We go back to Chapter 1 verse 3 that we are born again to a living hope of future inheritance of life eternal with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The second is that is speaking to the fact that, husband, and wife, both have been graced with the gift of life and the gift of marriage and just the fact we love our wife, she is deserving of being treated with love, respect, and honor.

There is a consequence to us not treating our wives as God has commanded. Our prayers may be hindered. That is a strong rebuke to us men. In context we are talking about unbelieving husbands. What do you think he may be praying for? The salvation of his wife!

So, if the husband is not living with his wife in an understanding way, or showing her honor, does he want his prayers hindered? Do any of us?

Like I said sometime back. All this can be applied to all of us who are married, and we are both believers. Really, all this can be applied to our lives as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We submit to God the Father in living our lives obediently to him so that he is glorified through our lives. In our relationships we treat people with dignity and respect, but we stand on the truth of God's Word, and we are bold when it comes proclaiming the Gospel with all that we have opportunity with.

To those that may be here tonight, and you have a spouse that is not saved. Keep praying, stay faithful to the Lord, love your spouse and let the light of Jesus Christ shine through you.