

## A Living Hope

### 1 Peter 2:13-3:7

#### Last week: new identity as the people of God

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation

(1 Pe 2:11–12)

*Identity: People of God*

*Exhortation: Good deeds to glorify God*

*Framework for good deeds in society, work and marriage*

*With Paul – Ephesians and Colossians is more comprehensive on submission, honor, marriage, husbands and wives, parents and children, servants and masters*

*With Peter - More limited scope, more limited examples of people most likely to be mistreated by the world's social structures... His intention is to encourage good works even when those whom are being served or submitted to are not as honoring in return.*

*Peter's instruction in one word: submission*

*2:13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution*

*2:18 Servants be subject to your masters with all respect*

*3:1 Wives be subject to your own husbands*

#### Today: relating to authority and relating to one another as the people of God

##### Submission to Authority

<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

<sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. <sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

##### Wives and Husbands

**3** 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, <sup>2</sup> when they see your respectful and pure conduct. <sup>3</sup> Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup> as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

(1 Pe 2:9–3:7).

As we look at this passage today – what is the main idea?

- There are three social situations where submission is spoken to
  - Political leadership
  - Servants / Employers
  - Marriage

David Helm asks a great question regarding this passage – he notes, Peter appears to be arguing that submission is the “preeminent mark of Christian grace and goodness... Does the sum and substance of one’s Christian life come down to some blind adherence to a principle called submission?” The answer is NO. ... Helm observes that the principle of submission is not our foundation. He says, “submission defines the Christian’s ways because “being like Jesus” describes the Christian goal... our goal is not blind adherence to a rigid principle but love for those we have relationships with.

### **Submission to Authority**

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Doing good is a strong apologetic for people who don't think highly of Christians

Doing good silences the ignorance of foolish people

Our freedom in Christ is for living as servants of God

Honoring everyone = is for people to ultimately see to goodness of God

Love brotherhood = is for people to see how the gospel holds us together

Fear God = shows the world there IS higher authority, that He IS worthy of respect

Honor the emperor = shows that our hope is in the sovereignty of God and not in our political leadership

<sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. <sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God

What this is NOT: this passage is not addressing the official slavery in North America history – that was on the evil basis of permanence, ownership, and race. 1 Tim 1:8-11 condemns the idea of taking someone captive to sell into slavery.

Ancient Roman world had three classes of people:

- Citizens - full rights and protection under the law
- Freedmen - restricted protections with great autonomy
- Servants / bondservants - men and women employed for domestic help / managing homes

These servants are who Peter has in mind...

### **Christ - Our Shepherd and Overseer of our souls**

<sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

This is the anchor for idea of submission: our submission is in relationship with Christ

### **Jesus the Great High Priest**

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Heb 4:14–16)

### **Return to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. Everything hinges on this.**

#### **Wives and Husbands**

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<sup>7</sup> 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.

What this is not saying:

- This is not saying that wives are to endure abuse, infidelity, abandonment
- This is not saying wives are to abandon their faith in Jesus at the request of unbelieving husbands
- This is not saying you can’t wear jewelry or style your hair or that everyone needs to dress the same

Peter leaves the work of applying the idea of submission to the pastor and wise godly counsel

- As a church, we are committed to pastoral care and godly counsel
- If you need help, we want to help

Peter’s emphasis is

- In relationship with Christ – respect and submission is with Him, that winsome conduct is with Him
  - It’s possible for the love and respect of a godly wife to lead an unbelieving husband to faith
- Internal beauty is the greater focus
  - “imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit”
  - This is “very precious” in God’s sight
- Husbands are to:
  - Live with your wives in an understanding way
  - Show them honor
  - See them as heirs with you of the grace of life
  - Gratitude is the outward expression of grace
  - Your (plural) prayers are not hindered when husbands love in this way

*<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Submission is with Christ and His purposes in mind.

- When we walk in submission we do so with Christ, in fellowship with Him and with His purposes in mind
- When we walk in submission there is a line – and because we are doing so with Christ, we know WHO is right and good and loving, and submitted with Christ we don't cross a line that he wouldn't cross.
- Ephesians 5:21 - when Paul is teaching on marriage, the foundation is “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ” – Marriage, by design, is a picture of Christ and the church.

You have a shepherd and overseer of your soul

- Knowing Jesus is the point of all of this.
- Have you gone to Him? Have you given Him your heart?