

STRANGERS & EXILES



CHRIST'S PEOPLE IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

(Non-)Toxic Masculinity– 1 Peter 3:7

October 8, 2023

Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honour to the woman as the weaker vessel.

This sentence has always been controversial. 'Weaker vessel?' Standing out like an Andrew Tate comment, two thousand years ago it was the least surprising phrase of all. In a culture that valued horses higher than women - it's the call to 'live with your wife in an understanding way, showing honour to her' that caused the commotion then.

And yet in amongst all the controversy is a beautiful picture of godly masculinity. And a Saviour who died for our worst sins.

Listen in as Lewis Roderick continues our series *Strangers and Exiles: Christ's people in a post-Christian world*.

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Who are the biggest influences on men today?
- Lewis quoted Cathy Elliott; *“Christianity is and always has been antithetical to women’s freedom and equality, but it’s certainly not alone in this. Whether it’s one of the world’s major faiths or an off-the-wall cult, religion means one thing and one thing only for those women unfortunate enough to get caught up in it: oppression. It’s the patriarchy made manifest, male-dominated, set up by men to protect and perpetuate their power.”* What do you make of this? Has this ever been your experience? How might Peter’s phrase ‘(joint-)heirs of the grace of life’ speak into this?
- Why is Jesus the ultimate man?
- In light of these past two messages, spend some time praying for the protection (and restoration) of marriages in our church.

Specifically for husbands;

- What steps might you be able to take to value your wife as precious, and help her taste our future grace?
- Dwell carefully on 2: 21-24, applying it to your own life. Where is the Lord setting you an example to follow? For what sins has borne/born in his body on the tree?