

Wednesday, January 31, 2024  
THE WRITINGS OF PETER  
PART 5

This evening, we continue our study of the writings of Peter the apostle, jumping into chapter 3 of 1 Peter. A reminder on the three themes of 1 Peter we'll be focusing on:

1. Suffering
2. Submission
3. Sanctification

We were studying submission. Peter instructs us to obey earthly authorities as a part of our obedience to Christ. If we are persecuted by earthly authorities because of our relationship to Christ, we are to endure without retaliation. Christ is to be our example. His submission to His Father's judgment set us free from a rebellious, selfish nature. Tonight, we go further into submission.

1 Peter 3:1-7 (AMP)

These passages start out with, "in like manner" or in some translations, "in the same way". This phrase serves as a link to Christ's submission as the example. *If Christ set up an authority structure, we should submit to it in faith.* Last time we found out that all authority is instituted by God for accountability's sake. Christ died and rose from the grave. But that has not changed the authority structure set up in the family through the Law of God.

Ephesians 5:21-33 (AMP)

A wife's submission to her husband is part of her relationship with Jesus. A husband loving his wife and giving himself up for her needs reflects a man's relationship with Jesus. Peter tells us that a women's submission to her husband should be done in faith in God as her ultimate head. Jesus is her example but so is Sarah. A couple of times, Abram even sold Sarah out in his own fear. It was then that God stepped in to protect Sarah. Married women should maintain that type of peaceful trust in the Lord. A man who does not love his wife and prefer her has a problem in his relationship with God. A man's disobedience to God in his relationship with his wife will be seen in God's refusal to answer the man's prayer. An interesting note: the scriptures in Peter were what gave birth to what we know as "chivalry".

**Chivalry: courteous behavior, especially that of a man toward women.**

Men understanding the value of a woman – understanding the physical difference in makeup and serving, honoring, and protecting the woman. The submission called for in the family is not based upon talent, intelligence, or even spiritual state. It is based in faith in God's Word. The scripture reference we read in Ephesians begins with the command to: "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ".

Husbands do not operate in a vacuum. A wise man will realize the value of his spiritual partner. He will ask her thoughts on decisions. When it comes to large, family affecting decisions, he will ask the Lord to confirm His direction to the wife. This is not an abdication of leadership, but it is seeking confirmation of the Lord's will.

Wives, there is great danger in you seeking to take spiritual leadership from your husband. God has set the family up to operate in a specific order. He is aware of the deficits and is working on them. Fear is your enemy – not your husband. Fear of what? That God cannot work within your family. It may be hard at times, but that is not an excuse to take control. *We don't overthrow God's order; we submit to it, pray for it and obey the Lord until it becomes all God wants it to be.*

The Bible gives us specific instruction as to what to do in the case of a broken marriage. Just remember two things: First, your marriage is a direct reflection of Christ's relationship with His church. Second, God hates divorce, which is reserved for cases of unrepentant covenant breaking.

Today's Scriptures:

- 1 Peter 3:1-7 (AMP)
- Ephesians 5:21-33 (AMP)