

A Living Hope

A Study in First Peter

LESSON THREE

Prayerfully read through 1st Peter, chapter three.

Peter instructed us in chapter two of submitting to government authorities, as well as the authority of masters & employers. As we open up to chapter three, he now focusses his attention on submission within the home.

- 1) Read Peter's instruction to wives in **verse 1**. Note that, just as he said in regard to submitting to employers, whether they are kind or harsh, here he tells wives to be submissive to their husbands, regardless of whether or not they are followers of Christ. What reason does he give at the end of verse 1 for doing so?

- 2) From **verse 2**, how does he say this is accomplished?

- 3) Looking back at **verse 1**, note that Peter says wives are to submit to *their own* husbands. This is an important distinction. David Guzik states in his commentary, **“Peter carefully observed that wives are called to submit to their own husbands and not to all men in a general sense. Male headship is God's commanded principle for the home and the church, not for society in general.”** What examples can you find in God's Word where, outside of the home and the church, women held an acceptable position of leadership?

4) As with our submission to government authority, we are not called to submit to anything that is clearly contrary to God's Word or His character. Can you give some examples from Scripture where a wife was commended for **not** obeying her husband in such a case?

5) Although many women struggle with the issue of submission, submission in general is an important part of the Christian life, for both men and for women. Peter has already addressed our submission to government, to employers, and wives to husbands. Look up the following Scriptures and beside each one list who is to submit and to whom should they submit to.

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Who should submit?</u>	<u>Whom should they submit to?</u>
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Mark 4:41

Luke 2:51

Luke 10:17

Ephesians 5:24

1 Peter 3:22

1 Peter 5:5a

1 Peter 5:5b

Hebrews 12:9

6) Looking now at **1 Peter 3:3-5**, Peter begins to give instructions for how women should adorn themselves. What instruction does he give to women in verse 3?

- 7) Several Bible versions, including the NASV and the NKJV add “*merely*” to this verse, stating that your adornment should not be *merely* the outward adornment of your hair and apparel. Almost all the good Bible scholars agree that Peter isn’t prohibiting a woman’s outward adornment, be it in the way she dresses, uses accessories, does her hair or wears her make-up. But that kind of adornment shouldn’t be our highest priority. What should be more important to us according to **verse 4**?

- 8) In **verse 5**, Peter points to the example of godly women in the past, stating that they trusted in God and received their sense of value and worth from Him rather than in their outward appearance. What else does he add to that at the end of **verse 5**?

- 9) In **verse 6** he give an example of this in pointing to Sarah. What does he say about her in this verse?

David Guzik says concerning this verse: “**Two things demonstrated Sarah’s submission to Abraham. First, she *obeyed* Abraham even when it was difficult and even when he was wrong (as in [Gen 12:10-20](#)). Second, she *honored* Abraham by **calling him lord**. It is possible to *obey* someone without showing them the *honor* that is part of submission. True submission knows the place of both *obedience* and *honor*.”**

- 10) Looking at **verse 7**, what instruction does Peter give to husbands?

- 11) What does **Ephesians 5:28** say about how a husband is to love his wife?

- 12) What is the **warning** Peter gives to husbands in this verse, should they not behave properly towards their wives?

Charles Spurgeon states:

“Indeed, to true believers prayer is so invaluable that the danger of hindering it is used by Peter as a motive why, in their marriage relationships, and household concerns, they should behave themselves with great wisdom. He bids the husband ‘dwell’ with his wife ‘according to knowledge,’ and render loving honor to her, lest their united prayers should be hindered. Anything which hinders prayer must be wrong. If any management of the family, or want of management, is injuring our power in prayer, there is an urgent demand for an alteration.” (Spurgeon)

- 13) Looking at **verse 8**, Peter once again summarizes his thoughts by addressing all believers in how they should treat one another in the family of God. What is his **first instruction** about our interactions with one another according to this verse?
- 14) Being of one mind is an instruction we see addressed to the church throughout the New Testament writings. But it **doesn’t mean** simply that we are all **in agreement** with one another. We can be in agreement about things that are clearly **not** in harmony with God’s Word, His purpose or His will. According to **Romans 12:2**, **1 Corinthians 2:16** and **Philippians 2:5** what kind of **“mind”** we are to be **“one with?”**

Every cell of your body is different, and each one has its role to play. But every cell in your body has the same DNA code written in it, the master plan for the whole body. Every cell in your body has the same “mind.” We could say that Christians should be like a good choir. Each one sings with his own voice and some sing different parts, but everyone sings to the same music and in harmony with one another.

(David Guzik)

- 20) In **1 Peter 3:13 & 14** Peter speaks about the injustices we can sometimes face. He points out in **verse 13** that doing what is good and right will often keep us from being treated unjustly, however, that is not always the case, and he acknowledges that in **verse 14** along with an encouragement to us when we find ourselves in that situation. Look up **John 15:18-21**. Explain how this should be an encouragement to us in those times we suffer injustices.
- 21) Peter states in **1 Peter 3:15 & 16** what the proper response should be toward those who mistreat us. Write down his words in **verse 15 below**.
- 22) What do you think it means to “sanctify” the Lord in your heart? Do a little research and share what you glean.
- 23) The second part of **verse 15** tells us we are to “***always be ready to give an answer [defense] to everyone who asks us of the reason for our hope...***” How important is it for us to know God’s Word, to know the true Gospel and to know in our hearts the reason for our hope! If someone were to ask you the reason for your hope in Christ, what would you say?

- 24) The motivation for all that Peter has instructed us in is found in **verses 16 & 17**. What do those verses tell us should be **the motivation** to respond in a way so contrary to our human nature?
- 25) In **verse 18** Peter points us to our ultimate example in Christ. Share what Peter says Christ did as our example.
- 26) Read **verses 19 & 20**. These verses have been confusing for many scholars and because it is not clearly stated we don't know for sure **who** exactly the Lord was "preaching" to. There are many theories. What we **do know** is that Christ preached to these "disobedient spirits" who were "in prison." They seem to be those who were disobedient during the time Noah was building the arc. And the "by Whom" of verse 19 is obviously "by the Holy Spirit." Some believe these spirits of disobedience were those spoken of in Genesis, chapter 6. Most agree that this was a message of **judgement**, not evangelism, but of condemnation in light of Christ's finished work accomplished on the cross. Many believe it was a message of victory over the enemy. But we are not told what Christ's message was exactly. However, what one truth do we learn from **Philippians 2:10 & 11**? Write those verses out below.

The last part of **verse 20** speaks of Noah being "saved by water." Peter then makes a comparison between the salvation Noah experienced and the water of baptism we experience. These verses can also seem a bit confusing at first, but I believe the explanation given by Charles Spurgeon is one of the best I've read. To help us better understand what Peter is saying read the following explanation by Spurgeon:

“Noah was not saved by the world’s being gradually reformed and restored to its primitive innocence, but a sentence of condemnation was pronounced, and death, burial, and resurrection ensued. Noah must go into the ark and become dead to the world; the floods must descend from heaven, and rise upward from their secret fountains beneath the earth, the ark must be submerged with many waters — here was burial; and then after a time, Noah and his family must come out into a totally new world of resurrection life.” (Spurgeon)

27) Peter states clearly in **verse 21** that it isn’t baptism that saves us. Baptism is a declaration of the salvation that has already taken place in the heart of the believer through Christ’s death on the cross. It is our declaration of now having a good conscience toward God because Christ has removed our sins and made us partakers of His resurrection life. Read **verse 22** and write down what this final verse of our chapter tells us concerning our resurrected Christ.

28) What ministered most to your heart as you went through chapter three of our study?