

## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter Ch. 3

V.1-2

-In the same way as what?

-in the previous chapter, he discussed how servants should be submissive to their masters

-in the same way wives are to submit to their husbands

-this topic is probably one of the most sensitive issues in the church today

-Women want to be independent and liberated and be their own person

-and when they hear a verse like this, they automatically get their defenses

up

-I believe the subject of biblical submission and authority is completely misunderstood

-wives are to be submissive to the authority of their husbands but that doesn't mean that they are a slave or less important

-God sees the role of a wife as extremely important

**Pro 31:10** An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.

**Pro 31:11** The heart of her husband trusts in her, And he will have no lack of gain.

**Pro 31:12** She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.

**Pro 31:13** She looks for wool and flax And works with her hands in delight.

**Pro 31:14** She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar.

**Pro 31:15** She rises also while it is still night And gives food to her household And portions to her maidens.

**Pro 31:16** She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard.

**Pro 31:17** She girds herself with strength And makes her arms strong.

**Pro 31:18** She senses that her gain is good; Her lamp does not go out at night.

**Pro 31:19** She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hands grasp the spindle.

**Pro 31:20** She extends her hand to the poor, And she stretches out her hands to the needy.

**Pro 31:21** She is not afraid of the snow for her household, For all her household are clothed with scarlet.

**Pro 31:22** She makes coverings for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.

**Pro 31:23** Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.

**Pro 31:24** She makes linen garments and sells *them*, And supplies belts to the tradesmen.

**Pro 31:25** Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future.

**Pro 31:26** She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

**Pro 31:27** She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.

**Pro 31:28** Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband *also*, and he praises her, *saying*:

**Pro 31:29** "Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all."

-the problem is that today's culture has warped our view of how the family should operate

-every t.v. show and commercial portrays a weak, indecisive husband who just sits on the couch and watches sports all day

-then they portray the woman as independent and strong with the ability to balance a career, family life and household responsibilities all on her own

-this structure is not what God had in mind

- God created a line of authority at the very beginning
  - when talking about authority, Paul tells Timothy:
    - 1Ti 2:13 For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve.
- 1Ti 2:14** And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.
- but women think that they get the short end of the stick by being commanded to submit to their husbands
  - but in reality, the husbands have a harder job than the women
    - Eph 5:24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.
- Eph 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
  - I believe that when a husband loves his wife the way Christ loved the church a woman have not problem submitting to his authority
    - He is to love her to the point that he would be willing to love her unconditionally and give up everything for her if required
- but a woman is married to a man who is disobedient to God, now the woman has a biblical responsibility to submit to him in order to be a witness to him
  - I know ladies like this and it takes a very special person to be able to do this
  - I marvel at women with this amount of patience and meekness
  - It may seem pointless for 20-30 years, but it will pay off
  - your husband will be won over by your commitment to Christ and will likely be in heaven because of your behavior
  - and in the end, that's what it is all about
  - and the reward God will have waiting for you in heaven for your faithfulness is unimaginable!

### V.3

- people and groups who are into keeping the law really like verses like this
  - they feel like it gives them something specific that they can do so that God will be pleased with them
  - But what he is saying is that our appearance is not to be the extent of our beauty
    - although it's true that there are many references in the bible about not using a lot of makeup and jewelry, there are also verses where it is acceptable
      - Son 1:9 "To me, my darling, you are like My mare among the chariots of Pharaoh.
      - Son 1:10 "Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, Your neck with strings of beads."
      - Son 1:11 "We will make for you ornaments of gold With beads of silver."
      - Son 1:12 "While the king was at his table, My perfume gave forth its fragrance.

- I believe the point is that we are to dress modestly and in a way that doesn't draw attention to us in a way that causes others to stumble or sin
- I'm not a believer in dress codes at church but there are times when some of these younger ladies come into church wearing short skirts and form fitting shirts that make many people uncomfortable
- this is a good example of what Peter is talking about
- yes, people like that are beautiful, but they should not be focusing on their outward beauty

#### V. 4

- outward appearance says very little about a person's heart
  - your physical features are a result of how God created you, you can't take credit for that
  - it's like people bragging about how tall they are or how thick of a beard they can grow
    - that's silly, they had no control over that
  - but society says that certain physical characteristics are superior
  - and for ladies, Peter says that a quiet and gentle spirit is precious in the sight of God
  - that contradicts what the world tells women today
    - the world says that women need to be independent, strong willed, and in control
  - it saddens me to see so many men who have relinquished their God given place of authority in the home to their wives
  - and the media doesn't help either
    - every show, every commercial they air portrays a man who is weak and indecisive and who couldn't find his way out of bed in the morning without his wife's direction
  - so often now you see women yelling at and belittling their men
  - since the feminist movement was organized in 1983, the divorce rate in the US has gone up 50 fold
  - I am not a sexist or male chauvinist, but I know that God created the family structure in a certain way for a reason

#### V.5-6

- looking at women of the Old Testament like Sarah and Rebecca, you see women who were very strong and had their own personalities

- but they also had a great respect for their husbands and for God
- Even when the husbands made big mistakes, the women submitted to their authority and let God deal with the husband instead of trying to straighten them out themselves

  - like when Abraham feared for his life and passed Sarah off as his sister

  - she wound up in Pharaoh's harem and allowed God to fix the situation

- it's pretty easy to submit to the authority of someone who is doing things right

- but learning so submit to someone even when they might be wrong requires help from above

- notice the end of v. 6

  - without being frightened by any fear

  - probably the main reason most women have such a bad reaction to the word "submit" is because many men have used it as a club

  - many men and even religions have used verses about submission in the bible to control women and keep them in fear

    - 1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

    - submission comes as one's free choice

    - it's a decision between them and God

    - it should never be forced on anyone

    - many nonbelievers use this as a reason for not wanting to become a Christian

    - they think that Christianity is a male dominated religion that holds women back

    - nothing could be further from the truth

    - if you look around the world, where ever Christianity has gone, women have been liberated and set free from oppression.

    - other religions treat women like property and don't give them the place of honor that God does

## V.7

- now some instruction for the men

  - live with your wives

    - this sounds basic but needs to be addressed

    - to live with someone means you need to physically be present

    - leaving the house at 6 in the morning and coming home at 10 every night isn't really living with your wife

- I understand that we all have to work but we need to realize that our relationship with our wives is a high priority
- you can't spend one hour a day with your wife and expect to have a great marriage
- spending time with each other is an investment in your marriage
- in an understanding way
  - no matter what schools or scientists try to tell us, we need to understand that women and men are created different
  - women in general are weaker than men
  - this is not saying that women are weaker spiritually or mentally. But it is a physical fact
  - that's not to say that weaker is bad, it's just a difference in the way God made us
  - and when men understand that, they will realize that they have a responsibility to protect their wife
- show honor
  - so if there was any doubt, now Peter sums up the fact that women are not spiritually inferior to men
  - men are to honor women as fellow heirs, not subordinates
  - a fellow heir of grace means they are on the same spiritual footing with God that men are
  - but groups who try to control women don't include this verse in their theology
  - it is for reasons like this that it is crucial to do a study of the entire bible, verse by verse
  - when you do, it forces you to deal with every issue, even ones that make you uncomfortable
- interesting note: If men do not treat their women in a way that honors God, their spiritual life will suffer.
  - the way you pray and communicate with God will be affected if you aren't in a right relationship with your wife

## V.8-9

- The Christian life, especially the marriage relationship, is about putting others before your self
  - the world says to fight back, yell and make your point
  - God says don't return evil for evil or insult for insult

- no one wants to be yelled at or belittled
- our natural reaction is to retaliate
- that makes us feel better but only makes matters worse

**-Pro 15:1** A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

#### V.10-11

- if you use your mouth to constantly lie, deceive and manipulate, you shouldn't expect to be loved and have good things happen to you
  - if you are a person like that, the good news is it's your mouth, you have complete control over how you use it!
- the temptation for evil comes across everyone's path
  - it's up to you to decide if you want to give in to it or to turn away and to do something good instead
- not only are you to seek peace, but you are supposed to pursue it as well
  - seeking peace would be saying you want to forgive someone and you go talk to them to sort out your issues
    - to pursue peace, you have to make the decision daily not to bring it up any more, not to be angry and not to talk about what that person did
    - the words "I forgive you" aren't as important as how you choose to act afterwards

#### V.12

- God delights in those who love Him and want to do good things as a result
    - He is the giver of every good gift and wants to bless those who are obedient to Him
- 2Ch 16:9** "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.

#### V.13-14

- people may be able to hurt us physically or intimidate us, but that should never stop us from being a witness for Christ
  - Rom 8:31** What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?
    - the easy thing to do is to tone it down or to not make waves but that's the wrong approach
    - I will never understand what part of the gospel people find so offensive
      - it promotes peace, love, happiness, eternal security....
    - even if man has the power to take our lives, we shouldn't fear that

Luk 12:5 "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"

#### V.15

-one of my favorite verses in the bible

-first, we need to settle the fact in our hearts completely that Jesus is our Lord

-then we need to realize that if we are followers of Christ, people will question our faith

-people that are very versed in the bible will ask why you believe what you believe

-they have many verses taken out of context and memorized

-and if you don't know the bible yourself, they can be very convincing

-do you know why you believe what you believe, or are you just following what your parents believe?

-there comes a point in every one's life when they need to decide for themselves if they want to be a follower of Christ

-when people question your faith, it isn't very convincing to say that you are a Christian because your parents were

-and if you ever have the opportunity to witness to someone who is interested, you need to know enough to answer their questions

-but when you have discussions with people, especially like JW's or Mormons, don't be combative

-a relationship with Christ could never be forced on someone

-we are not to mock or belittle someone else's faith, but present the gospel with gentleness

#### V.16-17

-if you are a genuine follower of Christ, it's not a question of "if" you run into opposition about your faith, it's just a question of "when"

-Paul promised that:

2Ti 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

-but if our response to being persecuted is anger and retaliation, our message of love and forgiveness loses all credibility

-when Paul was thrown into prison:

Act 16:23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;

**Act 16:24** and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.  
**Act 16:25** But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;  
**Act 16:26** and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.  
**Act 16:27** When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.  
**Act 16:28** But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"  
**Act 16:29** And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas,  
**Act 16:30** and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

V.18

-so much truth in this one verse

-all the picture types and prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ

-in order for Jesus to be able to bring us to God, He had to be completely just and without sin

-40 percent of born again Christians don't believe that Jesus was sinless

-and if He wasn't sinless then He couldn't have been the spotless Lamb alluded to in the Old Testament that had to be sacrificed

-He was put to death in the flesh, not in the spirit

-There is a teaching in the Word of Faith movement that denies that the death of Jesus on the cross was sufficient for our salvation

-Ken Copeland says:

"Now here's the part I want you to get. When He said, "It is finished," on that cross he was not speaking of the plan of redemption -- the plan of redemption had just begun. There were still three days and three nights to be gone through before He went to the throne."

"He [Jesus] allowed the devil to drag Him into the depths of hell....He allowed Himself to come under Satan's control...every demon in hell came down on Him to annihilate Him....They tortured Him beyond anything anybody had ever conceived. For three days He suffered everything there is to suffer."

V.19-20

-this verse verifies that Jesus wasn't tormented in hell

-He did go there but He went to proclaim His victory to the spirits

-Paul says in Ephesians:

**Eph 4:8** Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

-when Jesus went to hell, He went to pronounce final condemnation on the evil spirits on the punishment side of Hades

-and at the same time, He led the believers on the paradise side of Hades (Abraham's Bosom) to heaven with Him

-it's interesting that Peter makes reference to this same account in 2<sup>nd</sup>

Peter

**2Pe 2:4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

**2Pe 2:5** and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

-this is a very interesting issue

-it means that not all of the spirits that rebelled with Lucifer are roaming free today

-some of them are actually bound in a pit already

-many people think this refers to Genesis 6:1-2

**-Gen 6:1** Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them,

**Gen 6:2** that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

-they believe that before the flood, demons came down and had sexual relations with human women and had offspring, who later became known as the race of giants known as the Nephilim.

-and that those demons were the ones that Peter is referring to who God locked away in the pit

-Personally, I have a hard time with that theory for a couple of reasons

-Talking to Nicodemous, Jesus says "**Joh 3:6** "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

-this makes me think that Flesh and Spirit can't be together in that way

-and when the Pharisees were questioning Jesus, He told them, "**Mat 22:30** "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

-it would appear to me that the angels, good or bad, do not have need of a physical relationship

-and last, I have a hard time believing that God would allow demons to have relations with women and give them life producing seed. That sort of thing seems contrary to the character of God

V.21

-by only reading a part of this verse, you can make a case that you must be baptized to be saved

-but when you read the entire verse in context, you understand that the act of baptism doesn't save you

-Peter says baptism doesn't remove the dirt (or sin) from the flesh

-it's a symbolic act that all believers should do to demonstrate that they have been buried with Christ (in the water) and raised with Him in new life

-It's clear that the thief on the cross was not baptized and Jesus told him that he would be with Him in paradise

## V.22

-it's easy to think of Jesus as a man on earth, but the truth is that was a very short part of His existence

-His work has been completed and He is now in heaven with authority over all creation which makes sense because John says all of creation was created by Him and for Him

-and we are part of His creation

-we are created for His good pleasure

-let's make sure our lives are subject to His authority as well