

R E M E M B E R Y O U R

H O P E

1 Peter 3

Introduction

- Peter describes godly submission and authority in a marriage relationship.
- As believers, we must always do good, even when no one else around us is, and even when it may cause us to suffer.
- When we suffer for doing good, we will be blessed by God.
- When we endure suffering with hope and joy, it can be an incredible witness to the Gospel so, like Jesus, we can bring people closer to God through our suffering.

Respect and purity will likely win an
unbelieving husband to Christ

Witness for Christ

- 1 Peter 3:1-2
- In Greek culture at that time, a woman had no rights at all. She was considered property, owned by her husband in the same way he owned his sheep and goats.
- Under Roman law, a woman was completely at the mercy of her husband. Women were to be quiet and obedient; they were not allowed to have any kind of independent existence or mind of their own. A man could divorce his wife for any reason as long as he returned her dowry.

Witness for Christ

- That is not the kind of marriage relationship Peter is describing here, because a few verses later, Peter tells husbands to show their wives honor (verse 7).
- Peter describes a godly marriage as one in which women are spiritually equal to men (Galatians 3:27–28) but have a different and complementary role within the family structure.
- Peter tells a wife with an unbelieving husband to let her life be her witness.
- He says to love, respect, and honor him, because he may be won over to obedience by her example (1 Peter 3:1–2).

True beauty, meekness toward God,
is a matter of the heart

Inner Beauty

- 1 Peter 3:3-6
- Peter continues discussing voluntary, respectful submission by saying it is the “imperishable beauty” of a woman (verse 4). He compares this internal beauty to the external beauty so valued by Roman culture.
- They were particularly addicted to elaborate hairstyles, with hundreds of different ways to braid the hair, countless colors to dye it, gold thread woven into it, and costly wigs, particularly blonde ones

Inner Beauty

- But he tells us that in God's eyes, true beauty comes from within. Imperishable beauty, the kind which never fades.
- He agrees with the writer of Proverbs 31, the poem describing characteristics of a godly wife:
- "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain (or fleeting), but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (Proverbs 31:30).
- True beauty is fear of the Lord.

Husbands are to live with their
wives in an understanding way

Understanding Way

- 1 Peter 3:7
- Here Peter emphasizes the difference between God's definition of submission in marriage and the Roman culture's definition.
- Paul does something similar in Ephesians and Colossians. He starts with what the culture expected—submit to your authority figures (husband / wife, children / parents, slave / master), but adds that godly authority figures should also treat those under their authority with love, respect, and justice (Ephesians 5:21–33; Colossians 3:18–4:1).

Understanding Way

- Three key principles:
- Live with your wives in an understanding way: Marriage is an institution ordained and designed by God. It is a unique and special relationship.
- Showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel: It just means that women generally possess less physical strength than men.
- Since they are heirs with you of the grace of life: The husband is the leader of the marriage, but he is not of more value. He and his wife are co-heirs.

Do what is right,
even if you suffer for it

Do Not Repay Evil for Evil

- 1 Peter 3:8-14
- Peter is focused on “doing good” in this passage: doing the right thing no matter what anyone else does, even if it has negative consequences for you.
- He appeals again to our responsibility to obey God over man, as he did earlier in 1 Peter 2:13–16.
- Even if we suffer at the hands of man for doing good, we will be blessed by God. And the blessing of God is of greater and more lasting significance than anything man can do to us.

Do Not Repay Evil for Evil

- Peter's final exhortation in this section is to be humble and loving and pursue unity (1 Peter 3:8).
- He is driving home this same point: if you suffer for doing good, then you will be blessed (3:14). It is the natural human reaction to want to repay evil for evil (1 Peter 3:9), to want to take our own revenge (Romans 12:19).
- The Bible consistently tells us to leave vindication to the Lord. We are to be humble and kind and repay evil with good.
- Paul writes that we can overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

*Always be ready to share your hope in
Christ with gentleness and respect*

Have An Answer

- 1 Peter 3:15-17
- It is often used as a reason to study apologetics. Make sure you always have an answer ready for anyone who asks you about Jesus (3:15).
- In this letter, Peter has been talking about clinging to our eternal hope in times of great suffering.
- He has been encouraging those who were being persecuted for their faith to endure their suffering by putting their hope in the future inheritance they have in Christ.

Have An Answer

- This “always be ready to give an answer” is in response to people who see the incredible perseverance and hope these believers have in the midst of their suffering.
- Peter says we should have an answer for the hope we have in Jesus.
- It is also true that all of us should be ready at any time to give an answer, but Peter’s point here is it will cause people to take notice and ask questions.
- The way we handle suffering is a strong witness of the Gospel.

Have An Answer

- Gentle and respectful is the opposite of what we see so often on talk shows and on social media.
- If we have an answer for every theological question someone throws at us, but we belittle them or yell it at them in anger when we share it, how likely will they be to listen to us?
- But if we speak the truth in love, with gentleness and respect, we will not only be more likely to win them over, we will be more like Jesus (verse 16) and “trust the Holy Spirit himself to quietly persuade the listener.”

Christ also suffered for doing good, and
through Him we were saved

Christ Also Suffered

- 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Jesus suffered the ultimate persecution for doing good: death on a cross, the most shameful death at the time, even though He was completely innocent.
- Peter describes why: “that He might bring us to God” (verse 18). It’s the same reason he gives us for enduring suffering with grace, humility, hope and joy: that we may bring others to Christ through it.
- That our lives of humility and love will be a witness of Jesus. That people will see our joy and peace and take notice.

Christ Also Suffered

- Peter's emphasis on the few who were saved in the time of Noah (only eight people) is meant to encourage the ones he was writing to, who were being persecuted for their faith.
- Jesus said no one knows the day or hour that He will return. He predicted that the mass of humanity will be just living their lives, oblivious to God, as they were in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:36–44).
- Only the few who stayed faithful to Jesus, who endured to the end, will be saved (Matthew 24:9–13; Revelation 2:10).