

# Do Not Be Surprised at the Fiery Ordeal Among You

## An Expositional Journey Through **1Peter** **1Peter 3:1-7**

### 29- The Power and Glory of a Wife's Submissiveness, Part 1

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August 12, 2018

#### **1 Peter 3:1-7**

**1** In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

**2** as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

**3** Your adornment must not be *merely* external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

**4** but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

**5** For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

**6** just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

**7** You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

To the Glory of God

Now, those of you who have been here for any length of time have heard me tell you that while the Words of Scripture *themselves* are Inspired, Inerrant, and Infallible, the Chapter divisions, verses numbers, and various subject headings that you find in your English Bibles are not. They were added many centuries after the Bible was written to *facilitate* our reading and study of God's Word, and were made with the very best of intentions. And many times, they are

extremely helpful. But there are times when these “tools” actually *hinder* us from getting the full impact of what the writer was trying to say. The beginning verses of Chapter 3 of **1 Peter** is one of those times.

What Peter began to teach back in Chapter 2, about believers living “counter-intuitively” to this fallen world, is *continuing* here in the beginning of Chapter 3. And the reason we know that is in how Peter was “moved along” to begin verse 1, when he said:

### **In the same way...**

Now the overall general subject that we have been dealing with for a number of weeks now is:

How believers are to live in this fallen world as “Aliens and Strangers”

... which is simply another way of understanding what “Progressive Sanctification” looks like. And the Apostle Peter introduced this topic back in Chapter 2:1-3, when he told the persecuted believers:

**Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.**

... and everything else Peter has said since then is showing us what growing “**in respect to Salvation**” looks like. And the one word that would *summarize* this, that we have been studying now for several weeks, is:

### Submission

So far, we have learned that because all that the Apostle taught that God has done for us in Chapter 1 is true, therefore, our *response* to all this is that we should “do” and “be” the various manifestations of Submission:

- Put aside all Malice, Deceit, Hypocrisy, Envy, and Slander
- Long for the pure milk of the Word
- Grow in respect to Salvation

- Taste the Kindness of the Lord
- Come to Him
- Be built up
- Be a holy Priesthood
- Offer up spiritual sacrifices
- See Jesus as a "Precious Value"
- Believe
- Don't stumble
- Don't disobey
- Live as a Chosen race, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a People for God's Own Possession
- Proclaim the Excellencies of Jesus
- Act as the people of God, who have received Mercy
- Abstain from fleshly lusts
- Keep our behavior excellent among those who don't believe
- Manifest visible Good Deeds
- Submit to every Human Institution
- Do Right
- Act as Free men
- Honor people
- Love the Brotherhood
- Fear God
- Honor the political rulers
- Be submissive to our master (if we are slaves), or employers if we are employees
- Suffer injustice patiently out of a Conscience toward God
- Surrender to the Call to suffer

... which are simply different illustrations of how believers are to *submit*. And so, Peter used the entire second Chapter to illustrate what this "Godly Submission" looks like. And now, here, at the beginning of Chapter 3, Peter *expands* on this concept of Submission by telling Wives that they are to submit to the God-given authority of their Husbands, IN THE SAME WAY. Which is *why* the first few verses of Chapter 3 *should have been* included in Chapter 2.

Now, in *what "way"* are Wives to submit to their Husbands? In the *very same way* that all believers are to submit to Human Institutions, and in the *very same way* that slaves are to submit to their

cruel and unjust human masters, and in the *very same way* that all believers are to yield to the Divine Call to endure unjust Suffering patiently. And Peter uses two phrases to show us what the catalyst or the initiation for this Submission is:

Verse 13: **“For the Lord’s Sake”**

Verse 19: **“For the sake of Conscience toward God”**

.. and this is why I have gone over this very carefully with you. Because we must understand that Peter is *not* talking about “human bravery” or “courage” or “psyching ourselves up”. *Nobody* can simply talk themselves into suffering patiently, *especially* when that Suffering is unjust. *Nobody* is that brave or courageous. And he is also *not* teaching about things like “Duty” or “Obligation”, either. So, what is it that is so important, so valuable, so glorious, so powerful that it is worth us patiently enduring unjust Suffering *for*?

God and His Glory

By teaching that believers should submit to every Human Institution **“for the Lord’s Sake”** or **“for the sake of Conscience toward God”** means that there are times when God calls us to consciously and thoughtfully *forgo* our “rights”, and even our own dignity, “for the sake of” the infinitely *greater* Cause of God, and the particularities of God’s Nature and Character (His Excellencies) that *radiate* out from Him (when He displays them) that collectively make God to be Holy. And this is simply another way of saying:

“For God’s Glory”

So, God is “Holy”, in that God is Unique and Special, and *unlike* anyone or anything that He made. God is *higher* and *better* and *more valuable* and *more lovely* and *more powerful* and *wiser* and *more beautiful* and *more important* than all that He created. And what makes God to be all of that is *Who He is*, in the many Perfections or “Excellencies” of His Nature. And periodically, God “shows” or He “displays” or He “manifests” one or more of those perfect Attributes. For example, when God forgives and makes Righteous a wicked sinner,

the Attributes or the Excellencies of God's "Grace" and "Kindness" and "Mercy" and "Power" are "shown" or "displayed". They are "seen". And when those Excellencies are "seen", when they are "beheld", those who are gifted to be able to "see" them marvel at what they see. They gasp and they are amazed and they wonder after the Beauty and Mystery of God's Attributes.

So, when those Excellencies are displayed, they *radiate* out from God like the rays of the sun flow out from the center of the Star. And *that* is what the Bible means when it talks about "*the Glory of God*". Now God is "Holy", whether we see His Holiness or not. And He is "Perfect", whether He displays those Perfections or those Excellencies or not. But, God's Delight is *not* in simply *being* Who He already is, but in *displaying* those Attributes *publicly* and *powerfully*, so they can be seen and beheld, and then so radically changing wicked rebels (by what He alone does for them) that they are gifted to be able to behold those various Excellencies and *love* what they see, and then be *changed* into what they see! And that is *why* the Bible says that God does all that He does:

1. For My Glory
2. For My Name's Sake
3. So they will know there is none like Me

... these are the three main ways that God reveals *why* He does what He does, all through the Bible. So, "the Glory of God", the *displaying* of His Excellencies, so they can be seen and enjoyed, is the overriding Passion of God. It is His *highest* Desire, and that which *motivates* Him the most.

And that means that Sin is the *devaluing* or the *minimizing* or the *ignoring* of what matters the most to God, His Glory. Sin is understanding Who God is, but enjoying what has been made instead. Sin is finding the fullness of delight in that which is passing away rather than in God. Sin is turning *away from* God and His Will, and embracing rebellion.

So, Salvation then, is God sovereignly "unveiling" our eyes so that we may see the infinite Beauty of God. It is Him sovereignly unstopping our ears so that we may hear the sound of Amazing Grace. Salvation is God radically changing our hearts so that we genuinely

love Jesus, and find the fullness of our own joy in submitting to His Commandments. Salvation allows us to drink from the Fountain of Living Water and be truly satisfied. So, Salvation is God causing us to love and enjoy Him. Which is why, in the very beginning, God said:

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

**Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!**

So, the beginning of all genuine "Worship" is God revealing Who He is. So, Who God is is the *Foundation* of Worship. And then, in the very next verse, God established the only proper *response* to Who God is:

**Deuteronomy 6:5**

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**

... so, loving God (for Who He is) is what Worship is. It is what Salvation is. It is what Heaven will be. So, Worship does not begin and end with the song service on Sunday morning. Worship is so valuing God and so loving Jesus that we are willing to effectively struggle against the lusts of our flesh, by the Power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, to be found humbly and joyfully submitted to the Authority of Scripture *in our daily lives*, all to the Glory of God.

And that means that true Worship, Worship that is the result of our ongoing submission, is both *visible* and *measurable*. You can actually "see" Obedience with your eyes. And when this kind of Worship is seen, when this godly and humble and joyful Submission to God (based on how much we see Jesus as the Treasure of the Universe) is *displayed* by forgiven rebels in a broken and fallen world, it is a marvel to behold, and it brings great Glory to God. Jesus said:

**Matthew 5:13-16**

**13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.**

**14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;**

**15** nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

**16** "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

... and the **"in such a way"** part of what Jesus said here is accomplished when we *humbly and joyfully* "submit" to the Authority of the Word of God, which is the "Product" of the Holy Spirit.

And I would suggest to you that your Submission will be, at *best, reluctant*, and many times it will be nothing more than you "going through the motions", or even *worse*, your Submission will become a source of your own self-righteous arrogance, *unless: your submission to God is based on having come to see Jesus as being better than anything else this world can give to you, and better than anything this world can take away from you.*

And that means that Sin is taking our loves, the affections of our hearts, and placing them on something else. Sin is enjoying and delighting and finding full satisfaction in something besides God. And that is called, "Idolatry". And the Fall of Adam made us all to be idol worshippers. Our black hearts *manufacture* new idols every day. And Technology and Science and Medicine and Government usually helps fallen people to manufacture those idols *better* and *longer* so we can enjoy them more *deeply*.

And that is why I tell you that you don't have to be saved to want a better life. You don't have to be saved to want a better Marriage or a better job or even better children. You don't have to be saved to read the Bible or to enjoy singing Christian songs. You don't have to be saved to pray or go to Church or to want to escape Hell. You don't even have to be saved to want to go to Heaven. Unregenerate sinners can want all of that.

But you have to be saved to love Jesus. Lost people don't love Jesus. They *can't* love Jesus. Part of what it means to be "fallen" is that you have neither the desire nor the ability to love Jesus. So, you must be born again to *enjoy* God. You must be regenerate to find the fullness of your own Joy in God and His Glory. But two things prevent us from being saved:

1. God's Righteousness
2. Our Sin

Now we hear a lot about our Sin being an obstacle to God saving us, but we must also realize that God's Righteousness is as big, or even a *bigger* problem that has to be solved if unworthy sinners will be saved. You see, God, being absolutely Righteous is what *prevents* Him from simply issuing a "Divine Decree" to forgive all our sins. If God did that, He would be *complicit* in our sins by pardoning people who are patently guilty.

So, sin cannot merely be forgotten. It can't simply be "pushed aside" or "swept under the rug". To do that would sin against God's Righteousness that demands that all transgressions against God and His Glory be punished with Eternal Damnation. No, Sin has to be "paid for". The damage done to God and His Glory through our sins has to be *adjudicated*. And the Punishment must fit the Crime. If God simply "let sin go", He would be testifying that He didn't value His Own Glory any more than we do. So, if Sin is the *devaluing* and the *belittling* and the *rejection* of the single most important Aspect to God (His Own Glory), then the Punishment for that transgression must equal the Crime. Which is why, even what we would consider the slightest sin is met with Eternal Damnation.

And this is why, for any of us to go to Heaven, requires *more* than us simply being "forgiven". We must also become "Righteous". So, if we plan on being near to God throughout all Eternity, we must be *just as Righteous as God Himself*, or else we *cannot* enter into God's Presence, *even if we have been forgiven!* But how in the world are fallen human beings ever going to attain the status of sinless Righteousness? We simply *cannot* pray hard or long enough. We *cannot* partake of Communion enough. We *cannot* do enough "good deeds" to become perfectly Righteous.

So, God Himself must provide us with a *substitutionary* Sacrifice Who Himself has attained the position of being altogether Righteous, or else He must damn us all to hell. And this is why Jesus had to be born as a baby and live for 33-1/2 years on earth *before* He was crucified. As a Man, Jesus had to be confronted with every conceivable situation of temptation that we are, and yet He could not fail a single time in thought, word, or deed.



So, not only did Jesus never transgress the words of the Law, Jesus was also *perfectly* under submission to His Father's Will in every aspect, so much so that He never *initiated* a single word or deed by Himself the entire time He was here. Jesus said, in **John 5:19**:

**Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.***

And like no one before Him, or since, Jesus was *perfectly* led by God the Holy Spirit. And Jesus never did or thought or said *anything* that did not give to God the maximum amount of Glory. And the end result of all this was that Jesus never sinned. Jesus *completely* obeyed every issue of the Old Covenant, 24 hours every day and 7 days every week, for His entire Life! And in doing so, Jesus literally *earned* the Righteousness that was promised in the Law. And *that* is the Righteousness that allows sinners, like us, to go to Heaven.

So, the Righteousness that allows us to enter into God's Presence in Heaven is not our own righteousness. It isn't ours now and it will *never* be ours, not even when we are in Heaven. The Righteousness that allows sinners to go to Heaven is Jesus' Righteousness that He earned by never sinning. So, this Righteousness is an "*External Righteousness*", a "*Foreign Righteousness*", or an "*Alien Righteousness*", a "*Forensic Righteousness*".

Okay, but how do we get that Righteousness? How does this *external, foreign, alien, forensic* Righteousness come to me? The Roman religious system teaches that the Righteousness that allows us to enter into Heaven is our own personal, intrinsic righteousness that we *develop* over our lives through the faithful participation of the Sacraments, the attending of the Mass, and the accumulation of Good Works over your lifetime. But even then, at the moment of your death, you're still not righteous enough, so you have to spend several thousand years in Purgatory having your remaining sins purged from you.

But the Bible teaches something altogether different. Here is how the Apostle Paul explained it from **Romans 4:3-5**:

**3 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."**

**4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.**

**5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,**

So, we are “made” righteous, we are “credited” with the Righteousness of Jesus. God takes the spotless Righteousness of Jesus, and He sovereignly “imputes” that Righteousness to us through the Agency of “Faith Alone”.

And once we are forgiven and made Righteous, we are sovereignly granted with both the desire and the power to *obey* Jesus, to *follow* Him, to *submit* to Him. And it is this *ongoing* desire and this *relentless* effort to obey Jesus, after we are saved, that testifies unmistakably about the *validity* of our “Salvation Experience”. Now, it isn’t that we always *succeed* in obeying, because we don’t always succeed. Salvation does not produce “*faultless* Obedience”. But it *does* produce an unquenchable *desire* for “*faultless* Obedience”.

So, we fail at times to obey, either by “omission” or “co-mission”. But, in addition to that, even in our Obedience we fail at times to always be in submission to God and His Word. Or we might be in submission, but fail at being *joyful* about that Submission. Or we fail at always being *led* by God the Spirit. Or we fail at *loving* God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

So, yes, genuine believers obey Jesus. But our Obedience is *flawed*, it isn’t “*perfect* Obedience”. But while it is true that we don’t produce an Obedience that is “perfect”, we *do* produce an Obedience that is “honest”. So, when we come to realize that our efforts were not pleasing to God, we repent and we try again. So, yes, we fall down. But we “fall down” going up the Mountain.

So, while it is true that we are saved by what we “believe in” and what we “trust in” and what we “confess”, and *not* by what we “do”, it is also true that once we are justified, once we are forgiven and made Righteous, we are *commanded* to “do”. We are told to obey. And so “being Holy” or “being sanctified” or “following Jesus” or “bearing godly fruit” are all synonyms for this Obedience. And we arrive at this Obedience through our struggle to submit to what the Bible says. So, Obedience is the name of the game for all who have genuinely experienced the miracle of the New Birth.

But the Obedience that God is after in us is *not* a “forced Obedience” or a “fearful Obedience”. It *isn’t* an Obedience that flows out of an unbiblical “Debtors Ethic”, or an Obedience that is based in “Duty” or “Obligation” or “Human will-power”. The Obedience that comes from true Salvation is a Spirit-empowered “glad Obedience”. It is an Obedience that naturally flows out from the soul, who has been gifted to behold the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ, and who truly loves what he sees.

And everything that Peter has been telling these “scattered aliens” (and us), all through Chapter 2, to “do” and to “be”, is this kind of “glad Obedience” that the world knows nothing about. And as we now begin Chapter 3, Peter is *continuing* to show us what Holiness looks like, by telling Christian wives:

**1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,**

**2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.**

**3 Your adornment must not be *merely* external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;**

**4 but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.**

**5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;**

Now in our modern American culture that has been systematically *indoctrinated* by a godless Feminist ideology, the notion that *any* 21<sup>st</sup> Century Woman would be submissive to her Husband has long since passed us by. Unsaved people in Politics and in major Corporations, along with those in the Media and Academia, have worked long and hard to *eviscerate* every trace of Wives living under the authority of their Husbands. And sadly, this is true, even with many in the modern church.

We need to understand that what is called “Feminism” out in the larger culture is called “Egalitarianism” inside the Church. And *both* are working to achieve the same thing:

Genuine Equality between Men and Women

... which sounds great on the surface. So, how is it that Bible-believing Christians are so *opposed* to the Feminist and Egalitarian agenda? What exactly is their beef? In a nutshell, we oppose their agenda because it *undermines* and seeks to *eliminate* the "Divine Order" that God established of Male Leadership and Female Support.

And because the Feminists *cannot* get their agenda to become prime in the hearts and minds of most people through normal persuasion, they use the Government and Legislation and the Judiciary to *impose* their "religion" on the nation. And that is bad enough. But what is even *worse* is the Egalitarians who have the audacity to use sacred Scripture to bring this Gnostic philosophy of "Equality" into the Church.

And this has brought about great confusion among both Men and Women as to what exactly it means to be a "Man" and what it means to be a "Woman". And from this confusion comes forth several titanic issues that plague us in this hour such as:

- ✓ Mistreatment of Women
- ✓ Illegitimate Births
- ✓ Divorce and Remarriage
- ✓ Abortion
- ✓ So-called "Homosexual Marriages"
- ✓ Transgenderism

... and no doubt there will be other issues in the future.

And I see the confusion about what it means to be Male and Female as the *seminal* issue of our day, which is why I am teaching about this in our early morning Bible Study, which you should consider attending, because this Issue is going to *personally* affect every person in this room in one way or another. And that is *why* we need to know what the Bible teaches about this.

And while I'm not going to rehash the early morning Bible Study here in this Sermon, I can give you a very simple but profound Statement that *summarizes* the Issue very well:

God made them uniquely Male and Female on purpose

Being a "Man" or a "Women" is *not* some "cosmic accident", or some "random occurrence in genetic evolution". Neither is it something that we have the right to ignore or alter. The Bible says repeatedly and clearly that God *wisely* and *purposefully* made Men to be Men, and then He commanded them to fill the Roles that only Men can fill. And it goes on to say that God very *wisely* and *purposefully* made Women to be Women, and then He *commanded* them to fill those *unique sex-based Roles*. And what we have to have firm in our minds is that it is the Reality of the God-given *uniqueness* of both "Maleness" and "Femaleness" that *dictate* the Roles that we are to fill in this life if we hope for two things to occur:

1. God is glorified
2. Our Joy to be full

The Feminists and the Egalitarians disagree with God, and they work hard and long to either *ignore* what the Bible says altogether, or to grotesquely *warp* what it says. But we must understand that purposeful rebellion against what the Holy Bible says about the Reality of Male and Female sexual differences is neither wise nor helpful, it is *destructive*. And it is *sin*.

Dear friends, the Roles of "Son", "Brother", "Husband", and "Father" (along with other *extended* roles like "Son-in-law", "Grandfather", and "Uncle", etc.) *cannot* be filled by Women. They are *unique* to Men. And when Men *refuse* to fill those unique Roles, or when Women try to, *everybody* pays a terrible price.

Conversely, the Roles of "Daughter", "Sister", "Wife", and "Mother" (along with "Daughter-in-law", "Grandmother", and "Aunt", etc.) *cannot* be filled by Men. They are *unique* to Women. And each of these Roles is vitally important to the success of Humanity and the Will of God in the earth. Which is *why* there is much written in God's Word as to just *how* Men and Women are to submit themselves to these Roles, to God's Glory and the Good of people.

And that is *why* Fathers in the Home, and Leaders in the Church of Jesus, should be faithful to *teach* these unique differences based in the unarguable fact that God chose to make them either Male or Female at conception. And we should strive to *maintain* these

distinctions and to *celebrate* them, rather than allow people to “chart their own course”, or seek to *minimize, ignore, or even abolish* them.

We must understand that the unique sex-based Roles that are *clearly and repeatedly* discussed (in great detail), all throughout the 66 Books of the Holy Bible, are *not* the result of a lack of education or reflective of a backward, uncivilized society of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. These repeated Teachings and Commands that delineate very different and precise Roles that Men and Women are to fill in this life are the results of God the Holy Spirit “moving along” men, who wrote down infallible and inerrant Words. Therefore, they are both the Word and the Will of the Owner and Creator of the Universe. So, teaching and maintaining and celebrating these distinctions are *not* “outdated customs of long dead people that need to be ignored or overcome”; they are eternal Truths that all people need to struggle to obey and enjoy.

Let me say this another way: Wives *cannot* please the Lord and be in rebellion to what Peter teaches here in the beginning of Chapter 3. Or let me try it this way: Any Wife, who thinks that she is somehow *exempt* from being in submission to her Husband is deceived, and is in need of repentance.

Peter is also *not* teaching here that *some* women should obey these verses, while others, who are equally saved, may *by-pass* this section of Scripture. No, Peter is *continuing* in his very precise discussion, that he began back in Chapter 2, of what Salvation produces on the earth with real people. So, Wives, acting like the Apostle describes here, is what growing “**in respect to Salvation**” looks like. So, this is not *optional*. If a Woman seeks to be in “Right Standing” with God, she will be obedient to this part of the Bible.

But we have to keep in mind that the Goal of God here is not either “*forced or fearful* Obedience”. It is a “*glad* Obedience” that flows out from the very core of a Wife’s soul that is birthed in a rock-solid Confidence that what God requires of her in Scripture, is the not only the way to bring Glory to her Savior, but is the pathway of her *own* eternal Joy!

But, unlike the many other Passages that are found throughout the New Testament about this subject, Peter’s Teaching here comes on the heel of his teaching about how slaves should act toward their masters, *especially* when their masters are treating them unjustly. So, let’s put this in the correct context. Back in Chapter 2, Peter was

“moved along” by God the Holy Spirit to teach “godly submission” to all the believers:

### **1 Peter 2:13-17**

**Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. *Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.***

...but then he gets very specific and begins teaching the believing slaves that were among the “scattered aliens” of his day how *they* were supposed to “submit”:

### **1 Peter 2:18-20**

**Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.**

... and then Peter gives the *reason* or the *basis* why believers should act in such a way that appears to not be in their own best interests:

### **1 Peter 2:21-25**

**For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, *WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH*; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.**

... which is simply another way of saying what the Apostle said back in

## **1 Peter 2:13b:**

**... for the Lord's sake**

... which means:

For God's Glory

... so, as we have discussed, this is *not* about "human bravery or courage", nor is it about developing "human will-power". No, this is about bringing God Glory.

Now there is a lot being written and said about modern believers having what Jesus had and doing what Jesus did. And most of the time, the ones who speak the loudest about this are usually talking about manifesting supernatural power, and demonstrating signs and wonders and miracles and various "gifts of the Spirit". But few, if any, ever talk about suffering like Jesus suffered. They rarely talk about Suffering, at all, except to say that if you're spiritual enough and have enough faith you probably shouldn't suffer at all.

And yet, Peter gives here, as the *reason* or the *basis* behind *why* believers should endure Suffering patiently, *especially* when the Suffering is unjust, that Jesus Himself suffered like that. And there would be no reason for Peter to even bring up Jesus at this point unless he was making the connection between the *way* that Jesus suffered without complaint as being an Example for us to follow when Suffering comes to us. And this is why Peter said:

**... since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps ...**

... and Peter *destroys* the logic of many in the modern Church, who teach that strong and vibrant faith will *relieve* believers from ever having to suffer in the first place, when he said:

**For you have been called for this purpose ...**

.. and it is immediately after Peter makes this point that he then turns to the Christian wives, and says:



## **In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands ...**

In *what* "same way"? In the *same way* that *all* believers are to submit to some extent? Is that what Peter was talking about here? Yes. And that makes sense, *until* we bring up the part about slaves. So, *should* we attach what Peter tells Wives here with what he told slaves? If we are to keep this Command to Wives in context with what Peter has been teaching, yes. So, Peter is telling Wives to submit to their Husbands "in the same way" that *all* believers are to submit to God and His Word, and to every Human Institution. But he is *also* telling these Christian Wives to submit to their Husbands "in the same way" that Christian slaves are to submit to their evil masters. What?

Wait a minute! If that is true, is Peter then equating Husbands with evil slave masters? And is the Institution of Marriage itself then to be equated with the Institution of Slavery? And since Slavery was an *evil* Institution that simply could not be sustained when both the slaves and the masters actually obeyed the Revelation of the New Covenant, are we then to assume that it is God's Will to eventually *abolish* Marriage the same way that He abolished Slavery (Common Grace)?<sup>1</sup>

Now you may think that I am blowing this up way out of proportion here. But these are *precisely* the Questions that are being asked and discussed in major Universities all across our country that are training the next generation of lawyers, doctors, business owners, and politicians. But, what is even *worse* than that, these are the types of Questions being asked and discussed even in Seminaries that are training the next generation of Pastors, Elders, and other Church Leaders.

Now the short answer to all of those Questions is, "*No*". The Bible is *not* equating Husbands with evil slave masters. And, No, Peter was *not* "moved along" by God the Holy Spirit to suggest that the Institution

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<sup>1</sup> As we have discussed previously, Slavery had been practiced in a majority of the nations of the world for many centuries before God began to reveal His Word to Moses. God *allowed* Slavery to continue, for a time (some say too long), because to abolish Slavery earlier (by any other Means) would have done more damage than it corrected. God chose to *manage* Slavery until the fullness of the New Covenant brought forth the understanding of a superior way to live- even outside of Salvation. So, through the gift of "Common Grace"- God raised up men (both lost and saved), who elevated the conviction of others (saved and unsaved) and even of entire nations. And through this "Means"- caused Slavery to be seen as the Evil that it had always been and to cause it to be formally and officially condemned and made it to be illegal in the majority of the nations of the world- even those that are not dominated by Christianity.

of Marriage is to be looked at in the same way as we should look at the evil Institution of Slavery. And, "No", it is *not* God's Will for Marriage to go the way of Slavery.

Okay, but then *why* did Peter say that Wives are to submit to their Husbands "in the same way" that slaves are to submit to their slave masters? Why bring up slaves *before* he brought up Wives? Well, first of all, Peter was *elevating* the dignity of Marriage itself, and *re-enforcing* the "Divine Order" of Male Leadership and Female Support by addressing *all* Husbands here, even those who "**are disobedient to the Word**".

And this tells us that Marriage itself and the "Divine Order" are *infinitely* important to God. And it tells us that Marriage itself is to be *honored and respected*, and the "Divine Order" is to be *maintained*, even if one or both of the spouses are lost.

In addition to that, Peter is also saying that the Salvation of the human soul (in this case, the Husband) is *more* important and takes *precedent* over individual sins within the Marriage Covenant. Now how do we know that? Because of what Peter said:

**In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.**

So, in *addition* to teaching that *all* Wives are to submit to the authority of their *Christian* Husbands, Peter was also teaching about an issue that is *common* among believing wives, even in our day. It is very common for Wives in the modern church, who are saved, to think that they are allowed to *disrespect* their Husbands and to *ignore* the authority that God has given their Husbands because their Husbands are lost or are being disobedient to God.

And so, the logic goes that: "*as long as my Husband is not in right standing with God, I am free to live contrary to his leadership*". There are two churches in our immediate area, that I am personally aware of, that formally and officially teach, from the Pulpit, that Christian Wives may actually *divorce* their unsaved Husbands if their Husbands are hindering them from "moving in God", and are keeping them from "fulfilling God's Call" on their lives.

But Peter said, “No” to that. Now before you think that Peter was simply being *unreasonable* and *forcing* Wives to endure bad Marriages, we must understand that Jesus and Paul and Moses and every other writer of sacred Scripture taught the same thing. Not a single writer of any of the 66 Books allowed for Wives to *disrespect* the God-given authority of their Husbands in the Home. None. And there is no allowance, *anywhere*, for the reason of that disrespect to be that their Husbands were not saved. But, we must understand that Peter didn’t *invent* this Doctrine. He was simply *agreeing* with the rest of infallible Writ.

Now this “Apostolic Command” is certainly *not* an avenue for wicked men to feel free to use force and violence, and to sin against their Wives. Because Peter is faithful to also command the Husbands in verse 7:

**You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life...**

... which is concluded with a dire Warning:

**... so that your prayers will not be hindered.**

So, Peter was *not* placing Men in a *superior* position and Women in an *inferior* one. The Bible doesn’t do that, Jesus didn’t do that, the New Covenant doesn’t do that, and I’m not doing that. This simply tells us that Marriage itself, and the “Divine Order” that God Himself established for Husbands, to struggle against the lusts of their flesh to assume a “primary Leadership role”, and Women to struggle against the lusts of their flesh to assume a “primary Support role”, takes *precedent* in the Home, even over an unsaved spouse!

Now this has to be an *unbelievable* struggle for the Wife. And great care and patience should be afforded Wives, who find themselves in this position. But God has promised to give the Wives a “greater Grace” in this seemingly *impossible* situation, even as He has to the believing slave, who is being unjustly mistreated by an unbelieving master.

But Peter does not merely expect Wives to “tough it out”. No, in *addition* to giving the Command to respect and honor the unsaved Husband, he gives us great hope in what might be the *result* of this struggle by the Wife. Because Peter leaves open the possibility that God may actually save the Husband, precisely *because* of the behavior of the Wife. Peter said:

... **they** (the disobedient Husbands) **may be won** ...

... meaning they “may” be “won” to the Lord in Salvation. But Peter attaches the Husbands being “won” to the fact that the Wife has graciously and joyfully submitted herself to his authority by saying:

... **they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.**

... so, in *this case*, one of the “Means of Grace” that God has chosen to save the soul of the elect lost Husband is the *submissive, respectful behavior* of the Wife, even under hard circumstances.

Now this is a “hard sell” to Wives of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, who have been steeped in unbiblical Feminist ideology. But I would respond to that difficulty in three ways:

1. This was an even *harder* sell to the Wives of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century who *didn't* have the completed New Testament to read and understand, and who *didn't* have 2,000 years of Church history to give specific examples.
2. This is *exactly* what Peter taught here, which makes it *biblical*, which makes it *true*, and which makes it *mandatory* for Wives, who seek to please the Lord.
3. This shows us the *primacy* of the “Divine Order” of Male Leadership and Female Support.

Dear friends, if we hope to follow Jesus, we must understand that rather than ease up or compromise, this “Divine Order” is actually emphasized even *more* in Scripture when either the Husband or the Wife is an unbeliever.

For example, when the people of the dysfunctional Church at Corinth began to teach and believe that it was *permissible* for believers to divorce their unbelieving Spouse, *precisely because of their unbelief*, God the Spirit “moved along” the Apostle Paul to say:

**1 Corinthians 7:10-14**

**10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband**

**11 (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.**

**12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.**

**13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away.**

**14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.**

Now what Conclusions should we draw from this? At least five things that we will get into next time, Lord willing:

1. Marriage is highly valued by God, and should be highly valued by Christians.
2. God hates Divorce.
3. Believers should exercise great discernment *before* entering into Marriage.
4. The “Divine Order” of Male Leadership and Female Support is biblical and important.
5. God is Sovereign in Salvation, and so we pray and hope and trust that unbelieving spouses will be saved. As long as a person is alive, there is hope.

Amen. Let's pray

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.