

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 9, 2009

Passage: 1Peter 3:1-7

Memory Passage: Men-1Peter 3:7 Women 3:4

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:1-2.** What does the “in the same way/likewise” refer back to? What is the comparison that should be made (see 3:7)? How are wives to be subject to their husbands (v. 2, Gen. 2:20; Col. 3:18; Tit. 2:3-5)?

(b) What kind of husband is Peter referring to by those “who do not obey the word” (1Peter 1:22-25, 2:6-8)? What problems would a wife run into with a husband like this? What is the reason that Peter points out that this wife in particular should be submissive (Col. 4:5)? How does Paul address this same issue in 1Cor. 7:13-16?

(c) *Think about it:* In Genesis 3:16, woman is cursed that her desire should be to rule over her husband yet he will rule over her. How does this two-fold curse make Peter’s command all the more difficult?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:1-2. Talk about what it means to be submissive in relation to your husband. What should you do if you are married to someone who is not a Christian? Why? How is this different from the way the world often looks at marriage? What are the two ways that women are to carry themselves in this passage? Pray that the women of your family would be given the grace to represent Christ in these ways.

### DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:3-4.** Is Peter prohibiting the wearing of such things altogether (Prov. 31:10-31)? Why or why not? What kind of woman wore such things in public (Isa. 3:18-24; 1Tim 2:9-15)? What would be a parallel to dressing this way in our culture?

(b) How does Paul in 1Tim 2:9-15 describe how a woman should dress? What should a woman adorn herself with? How are these descriptions used elsewhere in the Bible (Mt. 11:29; 1Peter 1:3)? What is Peter’s concern here in light of what we read in verses 1-2?

(c) *Think about it:* Women: What motivates you to dress the way that you do? What are things that you do to adorn the person of your heart? What should be your motivating factors for how you dress with respect to verses 1-4? Men: How do you encourage your wife to dress? How do you encourage your wife to cultivate her inward heart in godliness? How do you respond to women who are dressed inappropriately or in ways that draw attention? What are you teaching your daughters about how they are to dress?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:3-4. Talk about clothing and why different people wear different kinds of clothing. Why is it important to wear certain things? What is to be the motivation behind how we dress? What is to be the primary focus of our time and attention? What kind of image are Christian women supposed to present? What else have we seen in chapter 2 that was precious in God’s sight? Pray that God would give you and your family a desire to see your inward beauty more adorned than your outward beauty.

### DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:5-6.** What does this section describe about the previous section (i.e. how does it connect grammatically)? What are some examples of Sarah obeying Abraham (Gen 12-22)? How are Christian women daughters of Sarah (Mt. 3:9; Rom. 4:11-12; 11:19-20; James 2:21)?

(b) Read Proverbs 31:10-31. How does the woman described here dress? What does she think of beauty and charm? What parallels do we get between the way this woman is portrayed and the way Peter instructs wives? Specifically, how does this passage illuminate how a woman is to be submissive? What does a gentle and respectful spirit look like? Anything surprising?

(c) *Think about it:* How does Peter’s connecting back to Sarah affect the way we read this passage? How would you respond to someone who said that the idea of submission was just something Peter was being culturally sensitive to?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:5-6. What does it mean to be a child of Abraham (Rom. 4:11-12; 11:19-20)? How are women to show their love for their husbands? When have you seen your mom do this in respect to your dad? How does Proverbs 31:30 describe how a godly woman is to look at beauty? What is more important than outward beauty? Pray that God would instill in all of you a fear of God that is honoring and glorifying to Him.

**DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT****READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:7.** What does Peter mean by living with your wife in an understanding way (Gen. 3:16, Eph 5:25-33)? What does it mean to show honor to someone? How is showing honor to your wife different than showing honor to someone else?

(b) Taking the two ideas of understanding and showing honor, how do these two instructions relate to one another? What does the idea of women as “the weaker vessel” mean (Acts 9:15; Rom. 9:21; 2Cor 4:7; 1Thess. 4:4)?

(c) What does Peter then say about the reason we are to honor them (Gal. 3:28; Eph. 3:6)? What are we heirs to (Titus 3:4-7)? The motivation that Peter sets forth is so that our prayers as husbands might go unhindered. Why would our prayers be hindered by not living with our wives in such a way both practically and spiritually (Matt. 5:23-24; Eph. 4:29-31; 1Pet. 3:12)?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:7. How is a husband supposed to treat his wife? What is an example of a way in which your dad has shown honor and understanding to your mom? Why is a husband supposed to treat his wife this way? Explain what it means by heirs with you of the grace of life. How would your prayers be hindered in this circumstance (Matt. 5:23-24)? Pray that your dad would honor your mom and that your household would be a place of honor, understanding, and love.

**DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT****READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Ephesians 5:25-33.** Peter does not say much to men in particulars about living with your wife, but Paul in this passage speaks to it with more clarity. What is the main comparison that Paul draws between husband and wife? What is it that Christ does for the church?

(b) How does Paul relate this to how husbands are to treat their wives? What are some practical ways in which you as a husband can practice this? We love our wives because loving our wives is loving Christ and ourselves. How have you seen this truth become reality?

(c) Verse 33 ends with a summary of what Paul has just said. What is different about how the two are to treat each other? Women, do you find that more than the need to be respected, you wish to feel loved? Men, do you feel the opposite, that you need respect from your wife more than you need to feel love?

(d) *Family:* Read Ephesians 5:25-33. What comparison does Paul make with the way a husband is to treat his wife? How does Christ love His Church? How are husbands to love their wives? Talk about the mystery that Paul refers to. Pray that the Lord would give you and your home this kind of love, the love that Christ has for His Church.

**DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT****READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(a) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* What have you learned from this week? How has what you have read changed how you should approach your spouse or fellow believers? What is it that the world says about the way husbands and wives are to treat each other? How does what we learned this week contradict that? How aware are you in what you are wearing and why? Is there anything that you need to seek forgiveness for or change in your life? Pray that God would make you into the kind of man or woman that Peter is speaking about in this passage.

**DATE:** August 9, 2009

**PASSAGE:** 1Peter 3:1-7

***The Joy of Marriage***  
*“since you are heirs of the grace of Christ”*