

1 Peter 3:1-12 - Reverence for God in our Relationships

Why are relationships the best and also the hardest thing about life?

Read Verses 1-7

A word to Wives...

Note the phrase 'in the same way' at the beginning of verse 1. What Peter says here to wives is continuing on from 2:13-21, and giving another example of followers of Jesus 'submitting to human authorities' out of reverence for God.

And these commands to submit are also part of a bigger point about how we live and relate to the world around us for the sake of the gospel, which is given in Chapter 2:11-12.

Why does Peter urge wives to submit to their husbands, and how does it reflect the message of 2:11-12?

Does this mean wives shouldn't share the message of the gospel itself with their husbands? Why/why not?

How do the comments about inner beauty Vs outer adornment relate to the call to wives to submit to their own husbands?

What clue does Peter give that this command to wives is relevant to woman in all times and places, and not just something society expected of woman at the time?

How does the background of Genesis 3:16, which describes the affects of sin on the relationships between husbands and wives (if not men and women in general), help us understand what is meant by 'a gentle and quiet spirit' and why it is so precious in God's sight?¹

If the ultimate motivator for a wife to submit to her husband is reverence for God (See 2:13, 18; and 3:5-6), then what qualifications and limits might be placed on submission?

A word to Husbands...

What does Peter urge husbands to do, and how does it complement his instructions to wives?

What does it look like to 'be considerate as you live with your wives'?

¹ Note as well how Genesis 4:7 can help us understand Genesis 3:16!

What does it mean to 'treat them with respect as the weaker partner'? (also consider what this *doesn't* mean!). Why is this so important?

What other reason(s) are given for a man being considerate and treating his wife with respect?

Reflect

Consider overall, what picture does Peter paint of a godly marriage?

How is it different to our sinful instincts?

How is it different from merely affirming conservative gender roles in marriage?

Read Verses 8-12 (A word to us all...)

How do verses 8-9 relate to and sum up the message through this whole section, from verse 2:11 onwards?

What reason or motivation does Peter give for living this way?

Consider relationships of your own in one or more of the following contexts, and flesh out what it would look like to embody verse 8-9 in these relationships:

- household / immediate family members
- close friends
- next door neighbours
- work
- school / uni
- community sporting team

Dig Deeper...

How does the idea that 'Whoever would love life' and inherit blessing from God 'must turn from evil and do good' fit with the gospel of faith alone in Christ alone by grace alone? (What's the relationship between saving faith and the kind of life outlined in these verses?)

Reflect & Pray

Do you think you are showing reverence for God in your relationships? Why / why not?

Where do you think you need to take significant action? What could that look like?