

“Our Relationships” - 1 Peter 3:1-12

Ask - Give an example of a couple who had/has a good, solid marriage. What made it good?

Background - There is a lot of discussion about the proper roles of husbands and wives. The institution of marriage is under assault in our modern culture. Although traditions and customs were different during the first century, Peter offers some timeless wisdom to improve our marriages and other relationships.

“Wives” - 1 Peter 3:1-6

(v1-2) What does the opening phrase of this chapter, “In the same way”, refer to (read 1 Peter 2:25)? What does it mean for a wife to be “subject” to her husband? Does this apply even when he is disobedient to God’ word? How might her conduct impact him?

(v3-4) Does this mean that external appearance and dress isn’t important at all? Discuss. Where is greater beauty found? What does it look like?

(v5-6) In general, who set the standard in former times for wives to follow today? Who do these verses name specifically as an example? Did Sarah fear Abraham or did she fear God?

WIVES ARE TO OBEY AND RESPECT THEIR HUSBANDS OUT OF FEAR FOR GOD. THEY ARE TO ADORN THEMSELVES BOTH INTERNALLY (MORE IMPORTANT) AND EXTERNALLY.

“Husbands” - 1 Peter 3:7

(v7a) How is the opening phrase of this verse just like verse 1 (read 1 Peter 2:21)? How does a husband show understanding to his wife? Is describing women as “weaker” meant to be demeaning or degrading? What task is this ascribing to husbands (*answer: Be her protector*)?

(v7b) How does a husband honor his wife? What is a consequence for husbands who fail to do so?

HUSBANDS ARE TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING AND HONOR TO THEIR WIVES. THEY ARE TO PROTECT THEM, STANDING READY TO SUFFER FOR THEM FOLLOWING CHRIST’S EXAMPLE.

“All Believers” - 1 Peter 3:8-12

(v8) What are the 5 practices Christians should employ in their relationships with one another? Define and discuss each of them.

(v9) What are believers told not to do in this verse? What should they do instead? Based on what rationale?

(v10-11) Read Psalm 34:12-14. What 3 words of advice does Peter repeat for those who wish to see life, love, and good days?

(v12) Read Psalm 34:15-16. Who does the LORD favor and how? Who does the LORD oppose?

CHRISTIANS SHOULD APPROACH ALL OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMPASSION AND HUMILITY, SEEKING GENUINE RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Application - The kingdom of God is built on relationships. Marriages that honor God are the centerpiece of a healthy society and are critical for strong families. Out of fear for God and following Christ's example, wives should respect their husbands and husbands should show understanding and honor to their wives. Beyond this, Christians should treat all believers with brotherly love and humility as fellow members of God's family. What advice would you offer to young engaged or newlywed couples?