

I PETER 3:1-12
SUBMISSION TO . . .?
PART 2

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to I Peter chapter 3 as we continue our in-depth study of I Peter.

Last week we began to look at the submission of the believer. Not an easy subject and yet, it is so important that God has spoken of this in His Word. So we do need to listen, we need to pay attention and we need to obey what the Lord is telling us.

Now you can agree with me on this or not, but I truly believe if you look at this with an open mind, you will see that the facts speak for themselves.

God has instituted three main institutions for a healthy society.

There is the church, and God established the church to bring people to Jesus and to bring Jesus to the people.

And Satan tried to attack the church from the outside, trying to destroy it with persecution. And yes, millions have been martyred for their faith over the years, but the church continued on, stronger through the persecution that they faced.

Thus, Satan used plan B. He came into the church with false teaching, false doctrine. Yes, he started out very mild, maybe even difficult to notice the subtle changes. But that is now gone and there are no subtle changes. He has come in with all kinds of false teaching that has not only weakened the church, but in many cases, it has destroyed their witness. Some are not even saved as they don't believe in the foundational truths of God found in the Word of God!

We can easily see that today and many are not even alarmed at what is going on.

The second institution that God established, and this is not in any special order, is that of government. We looked at this last week.

God has placed government into a position to protect people, watch over them, and yet, look at our government today. They are not interested in the people, the ones that they are to serve, but they are more interested in their agenda and the money that they can make while they are in office.

The next institution that God has established is marriage and look at the attack on marriage today. It is alarming and we will see that this morning as we look at this topic of what submission in the home is all about.

When these three institutions are destroyed, so will a nation and as you look at what is going on in America today, we are close to a collapse!

Now let's face it, how many of us like to be in submission to anyone?

None of us do and yet, God has called us to be in submission not only to Him, but to government, to our boss, in a marriage relationship!

Not an easy subject to say the least and yet, God is speaking to us today and we need to listen and obey.

Now why would Peter write about submission when these Christians were being persecuted for their faith and that persecution was only going to grow more intense?

As we have seen so far, Peter is admonishing them to have a steadfast endurance in the midst of the persecution they were facing and to live exemplary lives, holy lives in spite of the persecution they were facing.

Remember what Peter said in I Peter 1:13-16, **“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”**

In other words, God has saved you, He has a place reserved in Heaven for you that no one can take away. Thus, have a walk that is worthy of the high calling by which you have been called!

Their witness needed to be strong in the unbelieving world they were living in and so does ours. You see, our faith is not lived in some ambiguous sphere, it is lived out in the real world. And when persecution comes, and it will, our witness will even be stronger if we submit!

One writer put it like this, *“Biblical submission to authority is recognizing that God, my Creator, is the ultimate authority and has all power. As clay in the potter’s hand, I, His creation, should yield full control of my life to His will. This includes submitting to and obeying all delegated human authority over me, realizing that when I do so, I am actually submitting to God’s authority. Likewise, when I rebel against delegated authority, in essence I rebel against God Himself.”*

Like I have said, not an easy subject but an important one. We need to not only understand how we are to live out our faith, but then we are to walk accordingly!

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning into two main points, and they are,

SUBMISSION IN THE HOME – I PETER 3:1-7

SUBMISSION IN LIFE – I PETER 3:8-12

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in I Peter chapter 3, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic of –
SUBMISSION TO . . . ?

I PETER 3

VERSES 1-7

As we look at the institution of marriage, we can see that it is in trouble.

Think about this for a minute. How many books, videos, this and that do we have about marriage and sex and yet, with all that material on how to have a good marriage we have more marriage problems than ever and thus, more divorces than ever!

And tragically, we even see this problem in Christian marriages.

Why is that?

I believe it is because we are getting our instructions on marriage and how to live from the world, and thus, we see the problems that it brings into marriage relationships.

Like it or not. Agree with it or not. We must, we must get our instructions from the One who created marriage in the first place and that is God! I think He knows what He is talking about, and we need to listen to Him.

But we don't always like what God is saying and thus, the world many times tells us things we want to hear, and we listen and follow their ways. And then, we reap what we have sown and that is not good when we move away from what God has told us in His Word!

When do marriages usually struggle and for that matter, relationships struggle?

When there is stress in our lives, when difficult times come, and Peter is writing to a group of Christians in Asia Minor who were being persecuted for their faith.

Thus, he is admonishing them to have a steadfast endurance in the midst of the persecution they were facing and to live exemplary lives, holy lives in spite of the persecution they were facing.

Let me ask you this because it is based on how we view marriage today.

Where do we find the roots of our morality?

The problem for many is that evolution can't explain morals and I believe morals come from God.

We have in our conscience the knowledge of good and evil, the problem most of the time is we short-circuit our conscience so we can justify our actions.

Also, morals, the right kind of living is given to us in God's Word as He tells us what is right and what is wrong.

But when you take God out of the picture, you remove morality because it is rooted in the authority of God and our personal accountability to Him.

Now some of you may be thinking that I am crazy, and you are doubting what I have said.

I can't argue the point about being crazy, but listen to what Joseph Fletcher wrote in his book, *Moral Responsibility – Situation Ethics*.

This is what he wrote,

It depends on the situation . . .

In some situations, unmarried love could be infinitely more moral than married unlove.

Lying could be more Christian than telling the truth.

Stealing could be better than respecting private property.

No action is good or right in itself. It depends on whether or not it serves love's purpose – understanding love to be personal concern – in the situation.

- Joseph Fletcher, Moral Responsibility – Situation Ethics, p. 34

Thus, whatever makes you feel good is okay as long as you are happy!

Make no mistake about this, it is Biblical. Hear me out on this. Paul told us in II Timothy 3:1-5, **“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”**

Joseph Fletcher was right. Self-love is the focus and then it is manifested in all these evil ways! This is not a good thing!

And I think you can understand why adults and not just adults, but our kids are making such poor choices when they are being taught this garbage.

People have no idea what is right or wrong because they are being told these lies!

When God is removed from the picture and when you remove the existence and the authority of God from society and its decisions, moral confusion will result and that is what we are seeing today and it is affecting all walks of life, including but not limited to marriage!

What we see here is that God is calling wives to submit to their own husbands, not to be a slave but to rank under in authority, and then the opposition to that is seen as the world, the flesh and the Devil try to bring disorder in the family unit.

And the reason this works is people no longer want to submit or rank themselves under the authority of another. Thus, the end result is disorder in the home where kids are out of control, parents are out of control and the family unit is being blown apart!

And let me say this, because I have heard it before. Some will argue, ***“He does not deserve my love, my submission to him!”***

Let me say this, because some are thinking along these lines.

The speaker at our woman’s club was lecturing on marriage and asked the audience how many of us wanted to ***“mother”*** our husbands.

One member in the back row raised her hand.

“You do want to mother your husband?” the speaker asked.

“Mother?” the woman echoed. ***“I thought you said smother.”***

- Reader’s Digest, October 1993

Don’t get any ideas!

Now here’s the thing. If our conduct, our behavior was based upon people deserving it, no one would get anything! And that is not ***AGAPE*** love, that is conditional love!

Make no mistake about it, this submission isn’t a reward for the husband’s good behavior; but, as the proper order of the home, God commands it.

And so, what we see here is that Peter is putting the family unit back in order by saying wives need to submit to their **OWN** husbands even if they are not saved!

In fact, the idea here is these unbelieving husbands are actively disobedient to God’s Word!

Thus, like I have said, a wife is not to submit to her husband just because he is good, or he deserves it but because God commands that this is the proper order of the home.

Jesus was subject to both His parents and to God the Father but was not lower than either of them.

As Grudem put it, ***“Thus the command to wives to be subject to their husbands should never be taken to imply inferior personhood or spirituality, or lesser importance.”***

Now, by your actions your unsaved husband may come to know the Lord. But please understand that this is not going to happen by beating him over the head with the Bible or putting Bible verses in his lunch bag or telling him to ***“Turn or burn!”***

Then how is it done?

By loving him with the love of Christ. By serving him even if he doesn't deserve it. You see, submission is a heart attitude that then is reflected in our actions and if your heart is not right, eventually your actions will reflect that, and you won't submit to anyone!

Grudem tells us, ***“The attractiveness of a wife’s submissive behaviour even to an unbelieving husband suggests that God has inscribed the rightness and beauty of role distinctions to include male leadership or headship in the family and female acceptance of and responsiveness to that leadership . . . The unbelieving husband sees this behaviour and deep within perceives the beauty of it. Within his heart there is a witness that this is right, this is how God intended men and women to relate as husband as wife. He concludes, therefore, that the gospel which his wife believes must be true as well.”***

And then Peter says, **“when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear”**, what in the world is he talking about?

Please understand that this is not a fear of their husband, but it is a reverential fear as they honor the Lord in their conduct and are not only a witness to their husbands, but to the world!

Listen to what one writer had to say about submission and the family and the results of not obeying what God has said.

This is what he wrote,

I recognize that this whole issue of authority and submission in the home is not very popular, but do you know why?

It's because we've had our minds literally brainwashed that we are doing an injustice to women by categorizing them in this way.

If you have trouble accepting these principles it's because you are a part of a society that has been victimized by a godless, Christ-less, non-biblical philosophy of living that has been perpetrated for centuries on human thinking.

What we're seeing today in our society is the result of the thinking of the French Revolution, which was a humanistic, egalitarian [equal] approach to life. They believed in a society where there was absolute equality - a classless, godless kind of humanistic existence.

These ideas have been brewing for years and have now come to full brew and our age is drinking them in - no classes, no sexes, no distinctions, no authority, no submission and no humility.

Our society has been victimized by this atheistic approach to life. And the Church instead of rejecting it falls right into it by supporting equal rights for homosexuals, advocating women elders and women preachers and functioning on a philosophical godless hermeneutic that forces a reinterpretation of the Bible in terms of our present time instead of accepting the authority of the Word of God.

- John MacArthur, *The Fulfilled Family*

That is why so many Christians struggle with this. It is because they are listening to what the world is telling them instead of what God is telling them and they are reaping what they have sown!

God established the union of man and woman in marriage back in the Garden of Eden and that is the standard, that is what we are to follow.

Let me be clear on this issue for a minute, because some have taken it to an unbiblical conclusion.

Yes, a wife is to submit to her own husband as long as he doesn't tell her to do something that goes against what God has said in His Word. If he does, then you must obey God rather than man! (Acts 5:29)

And in her own personal life, she is to obey God and His Word and not do things that God has forbidden! That should just make sense.

Thus, she is submissive to God and her husband.

But today, we don't see that, and we think that this is only a problem today. Are you kidding me? It was a problem back in Peter's day as well.

We see this played out in the city of Corinth, that was very immoral. Some of the Christian women refused to cover their heads and thus, they could not be distinguished from the prostitutes that lived and worked in the city of Corinth who did not wear head coverings. That is rebellion!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

We know from secular history that various movements of women's liberation and feminism appeared in the Roman Empire during New Testament times.

Women would often take off their veils or other head coverings and cut their hair in order to look like men.

Much as in our own day, some women were demanding to be treated exactly like men and they attacked marriage and the raising of children as unjust restrictions of their rights. They asserted their independence by leaving their husbands and homes, refusing to care for their children, living with other men, demanding jobs traditionally held by men, wearing men's clothing and hairdos, and by discarding all signs of femininity.

It is likely that some of the believers at Corinth were influenced by those movements and, as a sign of protest and independence, refused to cover their heads at appropriate times.

- Source Unknown

So the world is telling women to be just like the world, be rebellious, be aggressive, be fiercely independent and thus, we are reaping once again what we have sown.

And notice what God is saying through Peter here. He is telling them not to be so concerned with your outward beauty but cultivate that inward beauty that will overflow, and people will see.

And yet, look at the emphasis that is placed on outward beauty today, the billions of dollars that are spent each year on plastic surgery and all kinds of other things. We have magazines that name the sexiest men and women each year.

Folks, the dress does not make the person. In fact, this outward beauty is corruptible, or it is fading away as much as we might try to stop it.

Now I am not saying that women are not to wear makeup or wear jewelry, that is not what Peter is saying.

J. Vernon McGee had to deal with this issue over 40 years ago as some women were upset in his church because other women were wearing makeup.

And he told them, “*Madam, if the barn needs to be painted, then paint the barn!*” Only J. Vernon McGee could say that and get away with it!

And again, Peter is not saying this is wrong, but that is not where true beauty is!

Paul, in I Timothy 2:9-10 makes this same point as he said, “**in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.**”

Now I do understand that there are those who say Christians are not to wear make-up, wear jewelry, dress like the world, which I am not sure how you dress then but if you do feel that way, great.

But also understand God is not telling us that it is wrong as long as your dress is modest, not vulgar!

In fact, in Song of Solomon we are told of the bride, **“Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, Your neck with chains of gold. . . . Your lips, O my spouse, Drip as the honeycomb; Honey and milk are under your tongue; And the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon. . . . How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O prince’s daughter! The curves of your thighs are like jewels, The work of the hands of a skillful workman.”** Song of Solomon 1:10, 4:11, 7:1.

You see, the bride is beautifully adorned but don’t let this be a preoccupation or the main focus of your life because that is not where true beauty is at, in spite of what Hollywood likes to tell us!

The main focus here is that you build up your spirit, the inner man you might say because that is where true beauty is at and it is incorruptible, it will not fade away. And the reality is, that is for all of us!

And as you build up that inner man, what has taken place in your heart will then overflow in your outward actions, the fruit of the Spirit will flow from your life!

This is not only precious to the Lord but a blessing to your husband. You see, as you live your life obeying the Lord you will then manifest the inner beauty or spiritual virtue.

Again, these things our culture does not promote and look at how dissatisfied they are because they are not living in a way that honors God, a way that God says is best for them.

In I Peter 3:5-6 Peter gives us some examples of women that lived to honor God as they honored their husbands, and specifically, Sarah!

What we see here, what Peter’s point is, that this is not something new but holy women in former times submitted themselves to their husbands and cultivated that inner beauty!

And we see that Peter uses the example of Sarah, the wife of Abraham who submitted to his leadership as her husband by being obedient and respecting him by calling him lord.

What is interesting here is that the only place we see her do this is in Genesis 18:9-14, we might call it a day of lord and laughter!

She heard the Lord say that she would have a son, and she laughed at the idea.

And many do what Sarah did here, they laugh at what the Lord is telling us here in these verses and in the Bible in general about women and how they are to be submissive to their own husband.

In other words, ***“You have to be kidding me! This is the twenty-first century; I am not going to do that!”***

And yet, Sarah respected her husband, she called him lord!

Now I am not saying to call your husband ***“lord,”*** kind of neat but I don't think it will fly.

But the idea is how you talk to him and about him is a reflection showing if you are honoring him or not.

You should be his biggest cheerleader you might say. You should be his biggest fan. Not pointing out all of his mistakes.

If my wife did that it would take a lifetime for her to get through all the things I have done, all the mistakes that I have made, but she doesn't do that, and wives are not to do that.

Encourage them, bless them, be submissive to them and see how God will bless your marriage!

I love my wife, she is by biggest encouragement, and I am so thankful for her. She is what a godly wife is to be about. Not a slave but ranking herself under the authority or leadership of her husband, me.

And when it is done correctly, it is a beautiful relationship because no one is lording over the other.

Remember in Genesis chapter 3, after the fall, after sin entered the world and the Lord told Eve, “**... Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.**” Genesis 3:16.

What we see here is that this is speaking of usurping the role of the husband.

Now some believe it is speaking of her love for her husband, but that is not what the text is saying, and this is part of the curse, so it is not a good thing!

That word “**desire**” is also seen in Genesis 4:7 where we are told, “**If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.**”

The Lord was warning Cain that sin wants to rule his life, don't let it!

Again, this is part of the curse, so it can't be good, and it is not.

The wife is going to try to rule over her husband and, not only that, but we see that the husband will now try to lord over his wife.

You see, the battle of the sexes where each person tries to usurp the role that God has given to him or her.

Susan T. Foh wrote, “*As a result of the fall, man no longer rules easily; he must fight from his headship. Sin has corrupted both the willing submission of the wife and the loving headship of the husband. The woman's desire is to control her husband (to usurp his divinely appointed headship), and he must master her, if he can. So the rule of love founded in paradise is replaced by struggle, tyranny and domination.*” (Susan T. Foh, cited in Boice).

You see, this is a heart attitude, like I have said; and true submission is done with joy and not sulking or complaining about how humble you are and the sacrifices you have made. And if you are trusting in the Lord, there is no need to fear, God will honor your obedience.

Now it is time to speak to the men.

And we need to understand that what Peter is saying here was very radical in the period of time that Peter lived in. You see, in that ancient culture a husband had absolute rights over his wife and the wife had virtually no rights in the marriage.

In fact, in the Roman world, if a man caught his wife in an act of adultery, he could kill her on the spot. But if a wife caught her husband, she could do nothing against him.

All the duties and obligations in marriage were put on the wife.

Peter's radical teaching is that the husband has God-ordained duties and obligations toward his wife.

He is to love his wife as Christ loves the church and gave His life for it, as Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:25.

But that love that may have started out strong, can grow very cold. Let me explain it like this.

This is an article that appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post* a while back.

The title of the article is "*The Seven Ages of the Married Cold*" and it tracks a husband's reaction to his wife's colds during their first seven years of marriage.

And the thing I want you to notice is how love degenerated over time instead of love growing.

Thus, love in marriage is something that must be cultivated.

We are told,

THE FIRST YEAR: “Sugar dumpling. I’m worried about my baby girl. You’ve got a bad snuffle, and there’s no telling about these things with all this strep going around. I’m putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general checkup and a good rest. I know the food’s lousy, but I’ll bring your meals in from Rossini’s. I’ve already arranged it with the floor superintendent.”

THE SECOND YEAR: “Listen, darling, I don’t like the sound of that cough. I’ve called Doc Miller to rush over here. Now, you go to bed like a good girl, please? Just for papa.”

THE THIRD YEAR: “Maybe you’d better lie down, honey; nothing like a little rest when you’re feeling punk. I’ll bring you something to eat. Have we got any soup?”

THE FOURTH YEAR: “Look, dear, be sensible. After you feed the kids and get the dishes washed, you’d better hit the sack.”

THE FIFTH YEAR: “Why don’t you get yourself a couple of aspirin?”

THE SIXTH YEAR: “Why don’t you gargle or something, rather than sitting around barking like a seal!”

THE SEVENTH YEAR: “For pete’s sake, stop sneezing! What are you trying to do, give me pneumonia?”

Now we laugh at that, but the sad reality is, that is what happens in many marriages and my prayer is that marriages would grow, they would flourish because instead of being self-centered you will be God-centered, obeying His plan for the family unit.

Men, just because your wife is to be submissive to you doesn’t make you a dictator in the family.

Do you understand you are married to the King of king's and Lord of lord's daughter?

She is to be treated like royalty, not a slave. She is to be the most precious thing in the world to you, not your personal servant.

I think a husband that bosses and mistreats his wife is out of sync with God and Peter even says that when this occurs, their prayers won't rise above the ceiling, it will not reach the ears of God, He won't answer them!

Thus, repent and start treating your wife as God treats the church and gave His life for it!
(Ephesians 5:25)

And Peter says we are to dwell with them with understanding.

Do you take the time to understand your wife?

I know, the Scriptures do say, "... 'With men this is impossible ...'" Matthew 19:26.

Please do not send in your letters to me on that one, I know, I am in so much trouble!!!!

No, that is not what that Scripture is saying because it is possible if we take the time to spend with them, to get to know them.

When your wife is having a bad day, don't say, "***Suck it up!***" Not a good idea and not very helpful.

Have compassion for her, help her out, love her.

When was the last time you took her out on a date?

I know, you are married now, but that doesn't mean you stop dating her, she is the King's daughter you know!

The more time you spend with her the more you will understand her, what she likes, what she dislikes, what she is going through and so on!

I have been married for forty-five years now and I am still learning things about my wife, and she is learning things about me as well. That is important to keep a marriage fresh, alive, growing!

And please understand that this is not a suggestion for men. Dwell with her with understanding!

But today, we are on the other end of the spectrum and with the women's liberation movement and men being put down as evil, men are not treating women like they should.

Richard Fugate in his book: *What the Bible Says About . . . Being a Man*, shares from history how men treated women and children when the Titanic sank on the 15th of April 1912.

This is what we are told,

“There was an unwritten code of the sea which said, ‘women and children first.’ It is the natural code that a man operating by Biblical standards will always follow . . . large number of male passengers [on the Titanic] were Christians and those men knew well the passage, Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).

Knowing they had a place reserved in Heaven, they had no need to grasp onto their physical lives. Because of their sacrifice, approximately 75% of the women were saved while only 20% of the men survived.

Do you think men today would make the same sacrifices?

In 1987 a ferry sank in the Philippines killing over 4000 people - mostly women and children. The majority of the survivors this time were men.

Similarly, when the ferry, Estonia sank in the Baltic Sea, most of its survivors were also men.

When the male survivors were questioned why they had not helped the women and children, they were quoted as saying: ‘Hey, its survival of the fittest,’ ‘It was every man for himself,’ ‘If women want, equality so much - they’ve got it!’

In 1992 when a survey was taken among 200 adults called the ‘Titanic Test.’ It revealed that:

If the Titanic sank today, only 67% of the men . . . would be willing to give up their seat for their spouses.

A little more than 33% of the men would give up lifeboat seats to a woman other than their wives.

Also, only 55% of men would yield a seat for their own mothers.”

And as unbelievable as that is, Fugate goes on to say how we can rectify this problem. He wrote,

“If our nation is to return to a period of greatness, men will have to accept the role of protector over those who are weak and needy. If the family is to again be strong, husbands and fathers will have to exercise their strength and leadership for the protection of their wives and children. In other words, we will need Biblical men who are willing to sacrifice their lives for their families.”

This is nothing more than a demonic attack on the family, this feminist movement as the roles of men and women have all changed, they are all mixed up and no one knows what they are doing any longer.

But Peter says that wives are the “**weaker vessel**” and thus, we are to care for them accordingly!

I know that is hard for some to swallow, but yes, they may be the weaker vessel, for the most part. That is just the way that God made us. Are their women that are stronger than men? Sure, but that is not the case most of the time and there is a reason for that. It is the way we were created. We have bigger muscle mass, we are stronger, that is just the way it is and thus, we are to protect our wife!

But let me say this first and then I will deal with the reason for that weakness a little more.

I want you to understand that Peter is not saying that women are weaker spiritually speaking, or intellectually speaking, or have some kind of inferiority to men, because we are equal in Christ.

In Galatians 3:26-29 we are told, **“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”**

Let me give you this example of what men are to be like in regard to their wife.

When a female China-back crab molts and sheds her shell, it takes several days for a new shell to harden.

This leaves her extremely vulnerable.

Do you know what happens during this period of time?

For those several days the male crab covers her with his body.

She attaches herself to his belly and he carries her until she’s once again able to protect herself.

What a great example from nature that God gives to us. We are to cover our wives, protect them from danger and help them so that they can grow and flourish in the Lord!

And here is the reason why they are weaker, how God has put us together. You see, the woman was taken from the side of man, close to his heart, under his arm and thus, he is to protect her, love her, watch over her as God has placed him in that position, not because he is better than a woman, but that is God's order for the family!

And as we do men, we are honoring her in the Lord! You see, Peter says we are heirs together of the manifold grace of God!

Again, let me show you how things have changed over the years. This story came from the early 1800's, and we are told,

“It has been said that an Eastern newspaperman went ‘down South’ prior to the Civil War to interview the southern ladies. He had heard they were more feminine, desirable, and submissive to their husbands than were their counterparts back East, and he desired to know why.

After his interviews, he wrote an article stating that, ‘The difference with southern women is . . . southern men.’ His article continued to describe how southern gentlemen treated their wives and daughters with total respect and honor. In other words, the wives were cherished, and the women's response was to live up to their reputation of being noble ladies.”

I think God has a good order for the family and when we are following what God has said, both the husband and the wife are blessed!

Maybe you have heard this story before. There was a man who came to his pastor at the church he attended for 25 years. He was a leader in the church and well respected and he said, ***“Pastor, I’ve got something to tell you. I’ve never told this to a soul and this is extremely difficult for me to tell you now, but my wife and I have had a fight every day for the past 30 years of our marriage.”***

The pastor was taken back by what he was hearing and didn’t know what to say to the man.

And trying to gain some time and think of what to say, he said, ***“Everyday?”***

“Yes, every day.”

“Did you fight today before you came to church?”

“Yes.”

“Well, how did it end up?”

“She came crawling to me on her hands and knees.”

“What did she say?”

“Come out from under that bed you coward and fight like a man!”

Men, you need to be the spiritual leader in the family and led your family into the presence of God. You need to step up to the plate and be an example to your family.

How much time do you spend in the Word?

What gets in your way of coming to church?

When bad things happen, how do you respond?

You see, you are an example not only to your wife, but also to your children!

And men, these need to be the priorities in your life: the Lord, your wife, your children, your ministry, your work and-so-on. It is that important or else everything else will be out of order.

SUBMISSION IN THE HOME is what God has desired and we need to obey because in that obedience, there is the blessings of God!

As we read on, we will be looking at – ***SUBMISSION IN LIFE!***

VERSES 8-12

Please understand that when Peter opens up in I Peter 3:8 with the word, “**finally**” he is not finishing up his letter.

What he means is that he is finishing up this section on – ***THE SUBMISSION OF THE BELIEVER!***

And as we have seen, Peter does not only plea for submission towards the government, submission in the workplace, submission in marriage but he also makes a plea for unity and love among God’s people that boils down to submission within the body of Christ.

Peter tells us that we need to be of one mind and that is no problem as long as they agree with me, and that is what usually happens and that is not Peter’s point, that is not the mind he is speaking of!

Paul, in Philippians 2:1-5 tells us, **“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”**

What is the mind of Christ that we are to put on?

The mind of Christ is one of humility, servanthood, submission, looking out for the welfare of others.

How do we accomplish that, how do we put on the mind of Christ?

By allowing the Spirit of God through the Word of God to direct us to walk in His ways, for as Paul said in I Corinthians 2:16b, **“. . . But we have the mind of Christ.”**

Thus, as we are one with God, as we put on the mind of Christ, there will be unity with the brethren and if not, then it just gets ugly as Paul said in Galatians 5:15, **“But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!”**

What can we do?

Paul goes on to say, **“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”** Galatians 5:16-18.

You see, there is the answer to our fighting, our anger, or whatever. Walk in the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit, which is love, will flow from your life and not the ugliness that comes from the works of the flesh!

Peter tells us that we are to have “**compassion for one another**” and the word comes from a Greek word that we get the English word *sympathy* from.

It’s a Greek word that literally means, “*sharing the same feeling.*”

Think of it like this. This kind of compassion is like “*climbing into someone else’s skin*” so as to feel and experience what they are feeling and experiencing so that you can better sympathize with and minister to them.

One of the challenges we face in this area of loving the brethren is when we have been wronged, someone treats us unfairly and the natural response is to repay evil with evil, distance yourself from them. But the supernatural response is to love them and bless them, why?

Because God has commanded us to love the brethren and if you can’t, you need to do a heart check and ask God to help you!

As you love the brethren there is a built-in blessing from God for you, don’t miss it!

And think about it, God has blessed you by forgiving you of all your sins and thus, learn to forgive others as God has forgiven you!

Now it is interesting here that Peter uses the Greek word *PHILEO* and not *AGAPE* for love. This Phileo love is a brotherly type of love.

Now I thought we were to love with *AGAPE* love, why is Peter speaking of brotherly type of love here?

Here’s the thing. Brotherly love and agape love are not mutually exclusive and should go hand in hand in the lives of those who are children of God.

Let me show you what I mean. Paul writes, in I Thessalonians 4:9, “**But concerning brotherly love [philadelphus] you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love [agape] one another.**”

The church should be a family where brotherly love rooted in agape love is demonstrated.

What do I mean by that?

I mean that the church should be a place where Christians generally like each other (have feelings of affection for each other) and do for each other (brotherly love) because God's love has knit them together (agape love).

Now, as you look at I Peter 3:10-12 you see that Peter is quoting out of Psalm 34:12-16 and the thrust of this is the blessings that come to those who turn from evil and do good.

How often people go after things that may satisfy for a time but are very short-lived and usually have severe consequences attached to them and yet, people still go after "*the good life*" you might say. But in the end, they come up empty. Case in point,

One of the most notorious twentieth-century personifications of hedonistic life was famed novelist Ernest Hemingway. The author of the noted literary works such as *The Sun Also Rises*, *A Farewell to Arms*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*, Hemingway also became notorious for his avant-garde [modern] lifestyle.

He had little regard for the teachings of the Bible or traditional systems of morality. He pursued the "good life" with a vengeance. His literary talent brought him fame, prestige, and money, which allowed him to seek pleasure all over the world through hunting and fishing expeditions, celebrity parties and gatherings, heavy drinking, fighting in and reporting on several wars and revolutions, and sleeping with women wherever he went. However, none of that ultimately gave Hemingway any lasting or genuine satisfaction. His life ended tragically one day in 1961 when he inflicted himself with a fatal shotgun blast to the head.

- John MacArthur

Why did he kill himself when he had everything he could ever want?

In fact, he had what most people are striving for today and yet it didn't help.

Some say he suffered from depression, but why?

Because true joy, true satisfaction is only found in the Lord and the humblest Christian, having nothing, is filled with more joy and satisfaction than the richest men in the world who have everything.

It is as David said in Psalm 16:11, **“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”**

And in Psalm 17:15 we are told, **“As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.”**

We are to live lives pleasing to God, centered upon Him and the reward for obeying the Lord, even though it might not be immediate, is secure and it is rewarding!

And the point that Peter is bringing forth is that we are to submit to those who are in authority over us. Not an easy subject, but an important one because we even see that Paul speaks of this in Ephesians

Evil practices will never produce true joy and satisfaction, just take a look at the people of this world and you can see that for yourself!

Let me close with this.

Robertson McQuilkin wrote the following about a crucial presupposition and conviction all believers must have concerning the nature and use of Scripture. This is what he wrote,

Since God is the author, the Bible is authoritative. It is absolute in its authority for human thought and behavior. “As the Scripture has said” is a recurring theme throughout the New Testament.

In fact, the New Testament contains more than two hundred direct quotations of the Old Testament.

In addition, the New Testament has a large and uncertain number of allusions to the Old.

New Testament writers, following the example of Jesus Christ, built their theology on the Old Testament.

For Christ and the apostles, to quote the Bible was to settle an issue.

- Robertson McQuilkin, *Understanding and Applying the Bible*, p. 20

May we view the Scriptures that way. It is not my opinion, it is what the Word of God has said and that goes with submission to government, submission at work, submission at home, submission in life! And the example that Peter gave us last week was that of Jesus. May we listen and obey!