

“Standing Firm in the Grace of God Series”

Lesson #2 “Submission in Suffering”

1 Peter Chapter 3:1-7

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:6-7 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

Introduction:

I worked with a lady named Katy who one day said that in the next life she wanted to be the man. She was meaning that she wanted to wear the boots, make the decisions and not have to cook dinner. I’ve thought of that comment many times now through the years and as much as she would like to take in her home, many has been the time that I wish that I could let someone else lead. Both submission and leadership can be very difficult.

When I was a little boy in the 1970’s I remember a very disturbing event. Do you remember the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment)? Woman all across America, fed up with control and oppression by men, launched a movement to obtain an equal status with men. I remember being very confused about this and asking mom and dad many questions about it. Because from my little boots I was wearing, it seemed like the woman were trying to take over the world. As a child I knew very little of adult relationships.

Transitional Statement:

As a grown up, looking back now I understand that there is a crazy conflict in the heart of a man and a woman between what God wants us to be, what we desire to be and our trust in God. Today Peter will help us understand God’s intention for the family structure.

Lesson:

I. First in our text God commands the wives to be submissive to their husbands.

1 Peter 3:1a

“In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands....”

A. In the same way

1. In the same way as we are all to be in submission to governmental authorities, to employers and in the same way that Christ submitted to God’s will with all of His heart unto the salvation of mankind.

B. God commands wives to be submissive to their husbands.

1. Submission here means placing ones self under the rank or authority of another particularly here under the husband.

-The Greek again points to the voluntary nature of this submission. Its not forced or coerced.

POINTS TO NOTE ABOUT WIVES BEING SUBMISSIVE:

One might ask why should the wife be submissive to the husband. I know from my own experience growing up in the church this question has been avoided and regarded as taboo. But I believe that this is a good question and God must have also as He addresses it in scripture.

1. First, in regards to wives submission to husbands the Apostle Paul says its because Adam (Man) was created first.

READ 1 Timothy 2:11-13

“A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. 12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. 13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.”

- A. And looking at Adam before Eve was created we see that God gave him a Law to keep Genesis 2:16-17

16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

- B. God gave him a work to do Genesis 2:15

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

- C. God also gave the man authority Genesis 2:19

19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

-The authority to name the animals & the woman also

*And ultimately the responsibility and accountability that goes with the authority

-Consider the first sin that ever happened, Eve took the ungodly fruit and ate it right?

-NO! Adam was the responsible party because he was given the law and he was to be the leader in his family but instead he stood by (On the side lines, when he should have been leading) and watched his wife being deceived and not only did he not say anything he went along with

it, knowing full well it was wrong.

-Romans 5:12 *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world...”*

-So God didn't call Adam and Eve together on the carpet for this sin.....He went straight to talk to Adam. Genesis 3:9

E. So it is nothing new when God tells us in the New Testament that the man is to be the head or the leader of the family

1 Corinthians 11:3

“But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.”

Ephesians 5:22-24

“Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.”

F. Plainly stated God's intention is for the man to be the final authority in the family.

This truth is plainly stated in Numbers 30:3-13

“Also if a woman makes a vow to the Lord, and binds herself by an obligation in her father's house in her youth, 4 and her father hears her vow and her obligation by which she has bound herself, and her father says nothing to her, then all her vows shall stand and every obligation by which she has bound herself shall stand. 5 "But if her father should forbid her on the day he hears of it, none of her vows or her obligations by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the Lord will forgive her because her father had forbidden her.

6 "However, if she should marry while under her vows or the rash statement of her lips by which she has bound herself, 7 and her husband hears of it and says nothing to her on the day he hears it, then her vows shall stand and her obligations by which she has bound herself shall stand. 8 "But if on the day her husband hears of it, he forbids her, then he shall annul her vow which she is under and the rash statement of her lips by which she has bound herself; and the Lord will forgive her.

9 "But the vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, everything by which she has bound herself, shall stand against her. 10

"However, if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound herself by an obligation with an oath, 11 and her husband heard it, but said nothing to her and did not forbid her, then all her vows shall

*stand and every obligation by which she bound herself shall stand.
12 "But if her husband indeed annuls them on the day he hears
them, then whatever proceeds out of her lips concerning her vows
or concerning the obligation of herself shall not stand; her
husband has annulled them, and the Lord will forgive her.
13 "Every vow and every binding oath to humble herself, her
husband may confirm it or her husband may annul it."*

G. So, Submission comes out of a godly structure of the home and family.

2. Also in regards to submission, Paul takes another step and says the man wasn't deceived in the garden but the woman was.

1 Timothy 2:14

*"A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. 12
But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but
to remain quiet. 13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.
14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived,
fell into transgression."*

A. So, Eve was deceived.

a. Now, deception has to do with believing and buying into something that isn't true.

-You see Eve was deceived and bought the lie that Satan threw out to her that she would become wise.

b. It seems that here Paul is pointing to a mindset that woman in general have.

-You know women in general usually try to see and expect the best in every situation even if it is to their own detriment. . For the most part they are very optimistic.

- I asked one of our fine ladies about this and she said we as woman can really be gullible some times. Another lady said we often times we let our emotion rule us and we have the tendency to be naïve sometimes.

-I am sure glad God created the loving heart of a woman to be encouraging, loving and supportive because to tell you the truth leadership is pretty scary sometimes and I couldn't make it without my wife.

3. So as a result of this sin in the garden, Adam and Eve were put out of the presence of God and God tells them that there will be consequences for their sin.

A. For the Woman

Genesis 3:16-17

*16 To the woman He said,
"I will greatly multiply
Your pain in childbirth,
In pain you will bring forth children;
Yet your desire will be for your husband,
And he will rule over you."*

*The woman's struggle with desire will be worse away from the very presence of God. God says she will desire her husband and her husband will rule over her

-Rule here means to govern, reign, or have power.

-I think this points to the general tendency of men to control instead of lead.

B. For the Man

Genesis 3:17-19

*17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it';
Cursed is the ground because of you;
In toil you will eat of it
All the days of your life.
18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;
And you will eat the plants of the field;
19 By the sweat of your face
You will eat bread,
Till you return to the ground,
Because from it you were taken;
For you are dust,
And to dust you shall return."*

*Adam as a result of not listening to God your going to be frustrated as you try to till the ground. Your going to feel out of control.

***Thus the cycle of control and rebellion is born.**

4. We see this played out throughout the Old Testament

A. Frustrated at life men began to oppress their wives and ditch leadership for control.

5. But, then Christ showed up and he brought Freedom

A. With the arrival of Christianity and Paul's declaration that the kingdom of heaven is not marked by gender Gal 3:28. Woman probably begin see the grace of God as a liberation from submission.

-In other words, now that I'm a Christian I don't have to submit to my worthless dead beat of a husband anymore.

B. But, here in 1 Peter 3:1 God makes it plain that the family structure has not changed. Men are to lead and the woman is to be submissive.

II. Then a wife's submission has kingdom purposes

1 Peter 3:1b-2

"...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.

A. Submit So that

1. If any are disobedient to the word they may be won or saved.

-The purpose for submission is the same as submission to governments and employers in chapter 2

*Submission is for the lords sake 1 Peter 2:13

-Yes your submission as a wife is figured into God's great plan to save mankind.

*So maybe it is not something to be endured but something wonderful and joyful to be a part of whether you have a great husband or a turkey bird.

2. Basically salvation for some men hangs in the balance of a submissive wife.

a. The disobedient husband can be won without a word.

-Its kind of like preaching, I can stand up here all day and declare God's word to you but the best sermon I can preach is not the one spoken from this pulpit each week but the one I live in my every day life.....My example.

*Ladies if your frustrated because you have talked till your blue in the face to your husband who seemingly doesn't hear a thing you have to say, there is something more powerful than words...your example.

b. The disobedient husband can be won by their wives behavior

TWO THINGS COME UNDER DISCUSSION HERE, PURITY AND RESPECT:

Purity.....Really addresses the motives of a wife's heart in regard to submission.

1). Am I submitting for the Lord's sake and for His will?

-Have I voluntarily placed myself under the authority of my husband?

*And have I found joy and contentment in God's desires.

2). Or, am I submitting to get what I want

-Is my submission only when my husband is watching and do I keep things from him?

-Or do I manipulate my husband to get what I want.

-feel irritation about the whole idea of submission.

3). Or am I submitting because of expectations

-Because the church expects me to?

-Because I feel pressure from the culture?

*What is your motive for submission?

Respect....submission is to come from the right attitude.

-Let's face it some Men just aren't worthy of respect.

-But God tells the woman to respect the position of the man in the family, regardless of his personal qualifications.

-Paul says in Ephesians 5:33

“Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband”

-Respect is to hold in high regard.

-Remember, behavior includes attitude

*A joyful heart in the grimmest of circumstances can change the world.

3). Wives please remember that your behavior can draw your man closer to God or further away

III. Also, Godly submission is truly beautiful

1 Peter 3-6a

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,...”

A. Have you ever been at the Mall and notice how big these make up counters are? The ladies like to go and try on perfume and check out different skin products and the like. Then just around the corner is a large array of woman’s clothing that come complete with manikins to show how they will fit and what appearance they will have. Also not far away is the jewelry counter full of ear rings, watches, bracelets, necklaces, rings, and the like.

-What about playing dress up as a little girl.

-My sister made me play too.....yuke

-All these adornments have one thing in common they areExternal

B. But, God calls His woman to a Internal adornment

1. A couple of weeks ago I found out that Family Video down the street has a little room in the back that sells pornography and that just made me livid that under the guise of family values they would promote and profit from pornography just enraged me. So I went home and told my wife that we weren’t going to rent anymore movies from Family Video and that was that. The next morning I am out raking leaves and she comes to me and tells me that she was sorry for being mad at me. I didn’t even know she was mad. But, she went on to explain that she felt like I had just made this decision without including her and she was made about it but she had realized that I was the leader in the family and she would trust my decisions.

2. Let me tell you as a man I gained great respect for my wife that day. I also realized that I should have included her help in this decision. I recognized what great value my wife is to me and I only wished I could somehow formulate the words to tell you how beautiful this gentle and quite spirit is to me.

C. Great woman of past clothed themselves with submission.

1. Abraham’s wife adorned herself with submission

-She recognized God’s family structure

-And she made herself beautiful with her submissive response to him

2. And, according to the Apostle Paul, woman are to be the glory or splendor of man, kind of like Christ was the glory and splendor of God

1 Corinthians 11:7

“For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.”

- D. Submission is not a stamp of inferiority by God.

Genesis 1:26

“Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

1. We are created equal
2. Christ submitted to God’s will

- E. So a submissive wife has adorned herself with beauty beyond imagination.

-She has become a crown of precious jewels upon her husbands head. Pro. 12:4

-But, the un-submissive wife has become a crown of thorns

IV. An important key is that Submission is not to be centered in fear

1 Peter 6:b

“...and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

- A. Here Peter brings up the foundation of submission

1. Submission is not to be rooted in fear.

-When you act out of fear your heart is driven by outward circumstances.

2. But, Submission is to be rooted in trust for God.

-A trust that He is all knowing

-A trust that He will provide for your needs

-A trust that He will protect you.

3. So comes the admonition from Paul in Colossians 3:18

“ Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

V. Now, to the Husbands Peter says to be considerate of your wives.

1 Peter 3:7

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."

A. In the same way.....

-Trusting God not your own ability

B. But considerate or understanding of:

-How they were raised around men etc

-Was their father abusive

-How you have treated them in past

-How many times they are lead by emotions

C. Treat her as someone weaker

-Some here have thought the woman is physically weaker or since she was deceived and sometimes ruled by emotion she is somehow weaker mentally.

*But the text doesn't say she is weaker, but that we as men are to treat her with that type of love and care.

D. God wants us to be spiritual leaders in our families

*Not controlling dictators

-Using force and fear tactics

-Its not our jobs to place our wives in submission

-It is her responsibility before God Romans 14:12

D. And we are not to make excuses like in the garden Gen. 3:12

-My leadership is failing God because of this rebellious woman you gave me

E. But we are to show our wives honor

-Honor includes value and esteem

***Without this your relationship with God will be hindered.**

Conclusion:

So Peter has discussed submission in public, submission in the work place and submission in the home

-All for the glory of God.

And with the discussion of wives submitting to their husbands Paul reminds us that both the role of the man and the woman are vital to the family:

1 Corinthians 11:11-12

11 However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.”

TODAY:

1) Maybe as a man your tired of the struggle between being on the side lines and being controlling.

-God simply wants you to be a godly leader in your family so your relationship with him will not be hindered. 1 Peter 3:7 ...(Memorize)

2) Maybe as a woman today your struggle is between desire and trust in God.

-God simply wants you to look to Him

-And submit to you husband so He will not be dishonored Titus 2:5 (Memorize)