

Refuge City Church — February 7, 2021
“Hope-Filled Life” (1 Peter 3:1-7)

Introduction/Reminder

- The funnel of hope and holiness now gets more personal.
 - Hope — Holiness — Identity [in God & as members of His Church] — Government/ Authority
- **TODAY:** A biblical understanding of marriage during the good, the bad, and the ugly times.
 - Regardless of our circumstances, we are to focus our hope in Christ above all, and continue to pursue holiness in all things.
- **QUOTE:** “Marriage is a wonderful institution! But who wants to live in an institution?”
- **Ephesians 5:31-32**, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”
 - A profound mystery indeed!
 - **QUOTE:** “Marriage is glorious but hard. It’s a burning joy and strength, and yet it is also blood, sweat, and tears, humbling defeats and exhausting victories.” [Timothy Keller]
- A post-Christian world is not going to honor biblically-defined marriage.
 - Divorce rate still hovers around 40-50%; even within the church.
 - Cohabitation is steadily on the rise **[living together outside of marriage; ‘test run’]**
 - According to one survey 57% of Christians say ‘casual sex’ before marriage is acceptable.
 - Continued normalization of homosexual marriage.
 - Overall, marriage in the US is deteriorating in to an ‘institution’ full of sin-filled philosophies and anti-biblical practices.
- In light of Peter’s letter to the Christian community, he brings focus to unequally-yoked marriages, but what we discuss today is applicable to everyone’s situation.
 - There is hope for your marriage, if you submit yourself to God’s principles.

Scripture Reading (1 Peter 3:1-7)

1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, **2** when they see your respectful and pure conduct. **3** Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— **4** but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. **5** For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, **6** as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. **7** Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an

understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

- **Cultural Context:** The role of wives in that day was one of inferiority. She had very little rights in the context of culture and marriage. She was expected to take on the religion of her husband, no matter what it was.
 - So it was important to provide council for those women who were finding hope in Jesus, living in a non-Christian/Roman world.
- Peter begins with **“Likewise”** = in context with Hope, Holiness, Humility, and Submission.
- This, in no way, is to refer to females & males in general... but specifically wives and husbands.
- In the marriage relationship, the husband and wife belong to each other.
 - **Song of Solomon 6:3**, “I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine...”
- This is a message for all marriage relationships, not solely those who have an unbelieving spouse... so everyone pay attention!
- “Submission” in this regard is similar to what was discussed last week.
 - **Definition:** “Submission should characterize *every* Christian. The Greek word *hypotasso* (“to submit”) has in view the maintenance of God’s willed order, not personal inferiority of any kind.”
- Wives of unbelieving husbands are to respond in the same way we discussed ‘roles’ and ‘responsibilities’ last week. **[submissive, respectful, and prayerful]**
 - There is nothing in scripture that dictates that either spouse can sin and become disobedient to God’s willed order.
 - **1 John 3:8**, “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”
 - Our redemption/salvation in Christ should only work to confirm God’s will and righteousness in us, not any other way.
 - Wives of believing husbands...does anything change??
- Let’s look at 4 aspects of a **WIFE**.
 1. Your role is a submissive nature, to God first, and then your husband **[not inferior; not subjugating yourself to sin or abuse]**
 - Who you are in Christ **[your value]** does not change when you’re in a divided marriage.
 - **1 Peter 1:3-7**, “According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you... In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

- **1 Peter 1:14**, “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,”
 - **1 Peter 2:9, 23**, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession... When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”
2. Your actions **[holiness/purity]** will speak louder than any words offered.
 - You’re not going to argue or nag your spouse to salvation.
 - **Galatians 5:22-24, 26**, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires... Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”
 - **Colossians 3:23-24**, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”
 3. Your character, according to God, is far more important than outer beauty according to the world’s standards. **[3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear]**
 - These are not legalistic requirements. Hair styles, clothing, and jewelry are not sinful. HOWEVER, they should not become more important than your spiritual character and pursuit of holiness.
 - **1 Samuel 16:7**, “...For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”
 - Ladies, you must consider “the hidden person of the heart”.
 - **Romans 7:22**, “For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,”
 - **Ephesians 3:16**, “that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,”
 4. Do good
 - **1 Peter 3:15**, “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.” **[maybe even those you live with...]**

Husbands

7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

- **Ephesians 5:25**, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,” **[service and sacrifice]**
- **Colossians 3:19**, “Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.”
- In this one verse, there are 4 aspects **Husbands** need to consider.
 1. **“Live with her”**
 - You need to be there in every respect. You don’t get “time off” from the marriage. You don’t get to “disconnect” just because you’ve had a long day.
 - Be available. Be present. Physically. Emotionally. Spiritually.
 2. **“Be understanding”** = purposefully and strategically accumulate knowledge of her.

- This goes beyond what you think you know, no matter how long you've been married.
 - This involves “active listening” and pursuing her. “Hunt her down” to know more, learn more, listen more, seeking new ways to value her and honor her as your bride.
 - “Take out the trash” example (2004)
3. **“Showing honor”** = like fine china, we value, protect, and admire who she is.
- Men, we're more like an iron skillet. Don't treat your wife the same way.
 - In your bull-headed ways, be careful how you navigate the china shop.
 - Doing so doesn't make you less of a man. It makes you a self-controlled, loving-protector of what God has determined extremely valuable.
 - Peter makes the point that we show honor because we are “joint heirs”.
 - There is no favoritism in God's grace; especially in regards to gender.
 - **Galatians 3:28**, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
 - “Imagio Deo” = made in the image of God.
 - **Genesis 1:27**, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
 - **Genesis 2:24**, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
 - In marriage, there is no longer him versus her. There is only unity.
 - **Matthew 19:6**, “What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”
4. Grow in holiness and fellowship with God because you honor, love, and respect your wife!
- This is why Peter ends this section by stating, “so that your prayers may not be hindered.”
 - **QUESTION:** Why would God honor your prayers, while you dishonor your wife and marriage?

Ephesians 5 Summary: “Be imitators of God... Walk in love... Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands... Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church... However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

Response/Prayer

1. In light of what we discussed today, how can you be a better spouse this week?
2. Husband or Wife, what can you do to fall in line with Peter's & overall Biblical teaching on your role in marriage?