

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Sept	1 Peter 1:1-12	A Living Hope
2) 11 Sept	1 Peter 1:13-25	Be Holy
3) 18 Sept	1 Peter 2:1-10	Building Our Faith
4) 25 Sept	1 Peter 2:11-25	Living as Strangers
5) 02 Oct	1 Peter 3:1-12	Living in Relationship
6) 09 Oct	1 Peter 3:13-22	Always Ready
7) 16 Oct	1 Peter 4:1-11	Equipped to Live
8) 23 Oct	1 Peter 4:12-19	When Ridiculed
9) 30 Oct	1 Peter 5:1-14	Alert Living
10) 6 Nov	2 Peter 1:3-11	Being Useful
11) 13 Nov	2 Peter 1:1-21	With Trust
12) 20 Nov	2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25	On Guard
13) 27 Nov	2 Peter 3:1-18	With Anticipation

INTRODUCTION

- Peter was writing to a church who lived in a pagan culture which devalued the need for a man to be faithful in his marriage, and this society accepted concubines and prostitution as common practices
- Though the Bible does a GREAT job telling us what makes a godly marriage, it is hard to find some as examples, even in the Bible
- A few marriages that stand out as good examples are: Adam & Eve before they sinned; Abraham & Sarah before Hagar; Solomon & his Shulamite bride before all his other women; Mary & Joseph; and Aquila & Priscilla
- In this section Peter conveys some powerful principles for married couples to follow if they truly want a long, blessed union

Passage	Comments																									
3:5-6	<p><b>OT Example of a Godly Wife – Sarah – the Wife Who Gave Her Husband a Younger Woman to Love</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naturally, Peter was addressing Sarah's godly qualities, and not her unwise act regarding Hagar</li> <li>• What were some of Sarah's godly qualities? Gen 17-21</li> </ul>																									
3:7	<p><b>Attitude Adjustment for Men – "Life is Not About Me"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether the wife deserves special treatment or not is irrelevant – we are to treat them with HIGH REGARD</li> <li>• We don't deserve God's love either, but He loved us to death. What a powerful example we need to follow</li> <li>• God COMMANDS us to be aware of, and responsive to our wife's needs; We are to be there for them</li> <li>• <b>END RESULT → ANSWERED PRAYERS</b></li> </ul>																									
3:8-12	<p><b>Summing up the home life, business life, &amp; social life:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Things to do</th> <th>Things NOT to do</th> <th>→ Benefits ←</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Have unity</td> <td>Do not seek revenge</td> <td rowspan="6"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive a blessing</li> <li>• Enjoy a long life</li> <li>• God watches over us continuously</li> <li>• He hears our every prayer</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Be sympathetic</td> <td>Do not return insults</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Be like family</td> <td>Do not speak evil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Be compassionate</td> <td>Do not be deceptive</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do Good</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Turn from evil</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Give a blessing</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Be humble</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seek &amp; Pursue Peace</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Things to do	Things NOT to do	→ Benefits ←	Have unity	Do not seek revenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive a blessing</li> <li>• Enjoy a long life</li> <li>• God watches over us continuously</li> <li>• He hears our every prayer</li> </ul>	Be sympathetic	Do not return insults	Be like family	Do not speak evil	Be compassionate	Do not be deceptive	Do Good		Turn from evil		Give a blessing			Be humble			Seek & Pursue Peace		
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1Peter 3:1-2	<p><b>Wives – "Be Submitting to Your Own Husbands"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The probable context is a wife has recently accepted Christ and has joined the church – but her husband remains a pagan – so how should a believing wife act?</li> <li>• This statement "be submitting" is not a command, but a participial phrase ('ing') emphasizing "voluntary" submittal to an unbelieving husband</li> <li>• BUT is this statement with or without conditions?</li> <li>• What if the husband is abusive?..... see Mat 18:15-17</li> <li>• A parallel passage is 1 Corinthians 7:10-16</li> <li>• Criticism &amp; nagging are ineffective tools of evangelism, but Godly behavior accomplishes much for the Kingdom (actions speak louder than words)</li> <li>• <b>End result →</b> An unbelieving spouse either accepts Christ or becomes less antagonistic toward Christianity</li> </ul>
More Thoughts on Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1) Submission does not mean inferiority; 2) Submission is to be given willingly; 3) Submission does not tolerate brutality or sinfulness</li> <li>• For other commands to submit to husbands, see Eph 5:22 &amp; Col 3:18; and these passages emphasize willful, joyful obedience – not obedience out of compulsion</li> <li>• Do things God's way and we can expect godly results</li> </ul>
3:3-4	<p><b>Clothing and Makeup Are Optional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Christians use this passage to restrict the use of makeup and even to dictate the style of clothes</li> <li>• Peter's intent was not to establish a dress code, but to convey that something had a higher priority over one's physical appearance – and that was for the inner person to be predictably gentle, humble, and honorable – qualities which God enjoys working with</li> <li>• How much does a woman's physical appearance play into manipulating people – especially men?</li> <li>• Peter's position was less is better – simplicity, not extravagance – character, not sexuality</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- This life is not about us – it's about CHRIST and serving the people He put around us – beginning with our spouse

NEXT WEEK: 1Peter 3:13-22. Per some commentaries, these verses are some of the most challenging to interpret in all of the NT. Who are the "spirits in prison"; how does baptism save us? And what does baptism save us from? Oh, and we are to be "apologists" who are able to defend the truth and give a satisfactory answer to everyone who asks us such tough questions



"He was very romantic when we first got married, but you know how men change."