

# 1 Peter 3 - Suffer for Righteousness sake

## 3:1-7 HUSBANDS AND WIVES

**v1 Likewise ye wives:** Links this section with the previous verses about Christ. **Submission to husbands:** Gk. *submit*. Principle in **1 Cor 11:3-7** "The husband is the head of the wife." Similar principle in **1 Tim 2:11**. In **1 Pet 3:1** it is in the context of a wife with an unbelieving husband. A wife is obviously not asked to submit to do anything against God's Word. **Obey not the word:** Gk. *logos*, the word of God. **May without a word:** Not "the" but "a". She can preach God's Word by not saying a word! Ironic but powerful! **Conversation of wives:** Does not mean verbally in this instance, but by literally a *way of life* as in **1 Pet 1:15; 2:12; 3:2; Jas 3:13**.

**v2 Chaste conversation:** Gk. *way of life*. The most powerful preaching is the way we live: **Prov 31:10-31**. **v3 Not outward adorning:** Inner beauty is more lasting and appealing: **Isa 3:18-24; Ps 45:15**. Jewellery, clothing and make up will never lead a disbelieving husband to the truth. Same principle is in **1 Tim 2:9**.

**v4 Hidden man of the heart:** This is Christ in our hearts: **Rom 12:2; Eph 3:17**. The finest and most beautiful adornment of all. **That which is not corruptible:** A Christ-like spirit is derived from God's Word which is incorruptible: **1:23**. **Ornament of a meek and quiet spirit:** Does not come naturally, but which is put on: **Eph 4:23; Gal 5:16**. **In the sight of God great price:** The most important observer of all God's love for His son is extended to us because we have Christ's character: **Mal 3:17; Jn 15:7**.

**v5 Adorned themselves:** Women like Sarah and Rebekah had external beauty, but are remembered for Godly character. **In submission to their husbands:** As appointed by God in Eden and confirmed by the apostles: **Gen 3:16; Eph 5:22-23; 1 Tim 2:9-15**. Two reasons given in **1 Tim 2:9-15** are (1) the order of creation: **Gen 2:22**; and (2) because Eve acted upon emotional impulse: **Gen 3:16-17**. Adam failed in Eden by not providing

spiritual leadership for his wife. As such, God makes this a feature of the curse by reinforcing that the husband is to lead: **1 Cor 11:3**. The relationship between Christ and the ecclesia is beautiful, and is the key to understanding these principles. This is extended here to wives who have unbelieving husbands.

**v6 As Sara obeyed Abraham:** **Genesis** is used in support of his teaching, similar to **1 Tim 2:9-15**. Same word used in **Heb 11:8**. **Calling him lord:** Recorded in **Gen 18:12**. **Daughters ye are:** True sons of Abraham are those who have Abraham's character: **Jn 8:39; Rom 4:16-24; Heb 2:16**. Likewise, a true daughter of Sarah has her character and faith: **Heb 11:11**. **As long as ye do well:** Actions, not just words!

**L**IKewise, <sup>a</sup>ye wives, be in <sup>b</sup>submission to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, <sup>c</sup>they also may without the word be won by the <sup>d</sup>conversation of the wives; <sup>e</sup>While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. <sup>f</sup>Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; <sup>g</sup>But let it be <sup>h</sup>the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the *ornament of a meek and quiet spirit*, which is in the sight of God of great price. <sup>i</sup>For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in submission unto their own husbands: <sup>j</sup>Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, <sup>k</sup>calling him lord: whose <sup>l</sup>daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

**v7 Likewise Husbands:** Links this verse with the previous verses. The husband is to follow Christ's example of love, patience, self-sacrifice and care. **According to knowledge:** Understanding and thoughtful. **Honour unto the wife:** Lit. *value, esteem, precious, highest price*. The husband is to sacrifice his own desires for the care of his wife, as Christ did. **Weaker vessel:** A vessel is designed to hold precious contents, God's Word and His Character: **2 Cor 4:6-7**. The same symbology is used in **Rom 9:22-24; 2 Cor 4:7-10; 2 Tim 2:21**. Used in the sense of physical weakness, therefore needing special care and protection. **Heirs together:** Men and women were designed to be complementary to each other. They are both joint heirs to the promises: **Gal 3:26-29**. **That your prayers be not hindered:** A serious warning to husbands.

<sup>a</sup>Likewise, <sup>b</sup>ye husbands, <sup>c</sup>dwell with them according to knowledge, <sup>d</sup>giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker <sup>e</sup>vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; <sup>f</sup>that your prayers be not hindered.

<sup>g</sup>Finally, be ye <sup>h</sup>all of one mind, having compassion one of another, <sup>i</sup>love as brethren, be <sup>j</sup>pitiful, be courteous;

<sup>k</sup>Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise <sup>l</sup>blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should <sup>m</sup>inherit a blessing.

<sup>n</sup>For <sup>o</sup>he that will love life, and see good days, let him <sup>p</sup>refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no <sup>q</sup>guile;

<sup>r</sup>Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him <sup>s</sup>seek peace, and ensue it.

<sup>t</sup>For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is <sup>u</sup>against them that do evil.

<sup>v</sup>And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

<sup>w</sup>But and <sup>x</sup>if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, <sup>y</sup>happy are ye; and <sup>z</sup>be not afraid of their terror, neither <sup>aa</sup>be troubled;

<sup>ab</sup>But <sup>ac</sup>sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and <sup>ad</sup>be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and <sup>ae</sup>fear;

<sup>af</sup>Having <sup>ag</sup>a good conscience; <sup>ah</sup>that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that <sup>ai</sup>falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

<sup>aj</sup>For <sup>ak</sup>it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

<sup>al</sup>For Christ also hath <sup>am</sup>once <sup>an</sup>suffered for sins, <sup>ao</sup>the just for the unjust, <sup>ap</sup>that he might bring us to God, being put to

death; that he might bring us to God, being put to

## 3:8-13 OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

**v8 All one mind:** True unity is when brethren have the mind of Christ: **Ps 133; Phil 2:2,5**. Empathy with others is an important part: **Rom 12:15-17; 1 Cor 12:25-26**. **Compassion:** Because Christ has this for us: **Heb 4:15**. **Love as brethren:** Gr. *Philadelphos*. A fundamental commandment of Christ: **Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 4:21**. **v9 Not evil for evil:** Christ is our ultimate example: **Mt 5:38-39; 27:14**. God is the judge: **Deut 32:35; Rom 12:17-19**. **Blessing:** The spirit of Christ: **Mt 5:44**. **Inherit a blessing:** At the resurrection: **Lk 14:12-15**. **v10 Love life:** Lit. "He that is willing, or that wills to love life, and see good days." **1 Pet 3:10-12** directly quotes **Psa 34:12-16**. **Lips speak no guile:** As Christ did: **Isa 53:9; 1 Pet 2:22-23**. **v11 Eschew evil:** Lit. *turn away from evil*. Christ the ultimate example: **Rom 12:21; Heb 1:9; 2:14**. **Peace:** Jesus gives peace to his disciples: **Jn 14:27**. **v12 Eyes of the Lord:** Yahweh protects the righteous with His angels: **Psa 34:4-7**. **Open to their prayers:** If anything makes us anxious, we should take it to God: **Mt 17:21; Phil 4:6; Jas 5:15-16**. Events of Revelation occur because believers pray: **Rev 5:8; 6:9-10; 8:3-5**. **Against them:** **Ps 34:16** continues, "Yahweh will cut off the remembrance of them from the earth."

**v13 Who is he that will harm you:** Very encouraging for believers who were being persecuted by Nero. God will save us eternally: **Dan 3:25-27; 6:20-23; Rom 8:31-39; Rev 13:10**.

## 3:14-17 SUFFERING PERSECUTION

**v14 Suffer:** Jesus also suffered: **Mt 17:12; Lk 17:25; Heb 2:18; 5:8**. Paul also: **Acts 9:16**. Continual theme in **1 Peter**, see **Background and Overview**. **Happy:** **Mt 5:3-11; Jas 1:2,12**.



Trial purifies us and reminds us of what is really important in life: **Rom 8:18-19; 2 Cor 4:17; 1 Pet 1:6-7**. This was taught and lived in the life of Christ: **Matt 5:12; Heb 5:7-8; 12:2**. **Be not afraid:** **Isa 8:12-13**. **v15 Sanctify:** Lit. *to make holy*: **Jn 17:17-19; Eph 5:26**. Quote also from **Isa 8:13**. **In your hearts:** Personal and real, not outward show. **Ready always:** Requires conscious preparation in advance: **2 Tim 2:4; Phil 1:17**. **v16 Good conscience:** From an enlightened mind: **Dan 1:8; 1 Tim 1:5,19**. Confidence in God's forgiveness and in the Truth: **Acts 24:16; Phil 1:9-10**, cp. a defiled conscience: **1 Tim 4:2; Tit 1:15**. **Speak evil of you:** Christ said this would happen: **Jn 7:17**. **Falsely accuse:** **Mt 5:44**. **v17 Suffer for well doing:** See **3:14**. The most perfect character was revealed by Christ: **Psa 22:8-21; 69:4; Isa 53:7-9**.

## 3:18-22 IMITATING CHRIST

**v18 Christ also:** Comfort in suffering: **Heb 4:15**. **Suffered for sins:** Gk. *on account of sins*. Forgiveness: **Psa 51:1-7; 103:10-13; Rom 6:3-4**. **Bring us to God:** Reconciliation. Christ the Shepherd: **Isa 55:4**. **Put to death in the flesh:** That we might also put to death the lusts of the flesh: **Rom 6:11; 8:13; Col 3:5**. **Quickened by the Spirit:** Raised to life. Baptism symbolic of this: **Rom 6:4**.

death <sup>b</sup>in the flesh, but <sup>c</sup>quickened <sup>d</sup>by the Spirit:

<sup>e</sup>By which also he went and <sup>f</sup>preached unto the spirits in prison;

<sup>g</sup>Which sometime were disobedient, <sup>h</sup>when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, <sup>i</sup>while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. Gk. "a representation of this"

<sup>j</sup>The like <sup>k</sup>figure whereunto even <sup>l</sup>baptism doth also now <sup>m</sup>save us (the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of "a good conscience toward God,) <sup>n</sup>by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

<sup>o</sup>Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and <sup>p</sup>authorities and <sup>q</sup>powers being made subject unto him.

**Colour code:** Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin / devil / the world / judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words and phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for **Study Week 2016** to the theme "I am not ashamed".

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