

Christian Relationships (1Peter 3:1-18)

I. INTRODUCTION – DEVELOPING CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER IN RELATIONSHIPS

- A. One of the big topics that we have been studying is, how does The Lord want us to live out our lives as believers? God has a Biblical way for us to relate to one another as husbands and wives, and as people, to one another.

“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without word, may be won by the conduct of the wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel – rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.” (1Pe. 3:1-4)

- B. Biblical submission is meant to demonstrate the order and harmony that exists between the Godhead – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The three in one, in perfect harmony.

II. SUBMISSION – BIBLE LAWS FOR STAYING IN LOVE

- A. As couples, we are to demonstrate the love that exists between the Godhead. Husbands are to be followers of Christ who demonstrate the love of Christ by taking care of your wife by loving and protecting her, and not by being a self-centered, demanding dictator.

- B. Wives, for the sake of the godly order, are to be submissive to your husbands. Even if your husband is not a follower of Christ. The word “submissive” means, to subordinate, to be in subjection to.

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the Church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the Church is subject to Christ, so let wives be to the own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for her” (Eph. 5:22-25)

- C. Your husband is not perfect, but the reason you should choose to live in submission to him in the family is to show that you are submitted to Christ. In other words, you are actually following Christ when you submit to him. Let him take the lead by inspiring him and encouraging him to do so.

- D. Husbands are to love your wives, following the example of Christ, who laid down His life for the Church through sacrifice. Husband, you need to take the spiritual lead in your home under Christ. You are the priest of your home. That means the responsibility is on you to bring your wife and family to God through prayer, sacrifice, and by serving them.

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding [knowledge], giving honor [value, to esteem in the highest degree] to the wife, as to the weaker [more vulnerable] vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.” (1 Pe. 3:7).

IV. CALLED TO BLESSING

- A. As Christians, we are called to blessing; to be a blessing and to be blessed. The Word of God gives us very specific ways where that becomes a reality.

“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For ‘He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’”

- B. The word, “one mind”, means like-minded, harmonious. “tenderhearted” means, sympathetic, pitiful. “Courteous” means, friendly, kind.
- C. The word, “reviling” means railing, slandering, vituperation [verbal abuse, violent denunciation or condemnation]. To apply this word to this election season, it is important that we do not give in to reviling.

V. HOW TO SUFFER GOD’S WAY

- A. Learning to suffer Biblically is a rare character trait. We naturally pull back from suffering, or we tend to try to defend ourselves. The truth is, much persecution is not for the cause of Christ, but because we are acting foolishly or did something dumb. There is a place of “suffering for righteousness” that we must learn to embrace.

“And who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you suffer for righteousness sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” (1Pe. 3:13-15)

- B. The word “righteousness sake” means someone who is living a life to honor God and His Word, be acceptable to Him. You are choosing to give glory to God through your life and actions, rather than offend and dishonoring Him. Sometimes those actions will lead to threats, persecution or even physical harm.
- C. There are many examples we can use today to prove this reality. We may face more of this in coming days. The point is, we need to not be surprised when it happens. And we need to have the right attitude if it happens.
- D. “Sanctify” is the word *hagiazō*. It means to make holy. Make God holy in your hearts. Set Him apart. The word “defense” is the word *apologia*. It means, *to give an answer*. To defend through logical reasoning. To explain to people who have preconceived ideas about Christianity, why you think or act the way you do in a scripturally, intelligent way.