

1 Peter 3

(ESV) 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.

Discussion

Recall – to whom did Peter write this epistle? _____

How might that knowledge give context to his instruction in these opening verses of chapter 3? _____

What specifically does he instruct wives to be in regards to their husbands? _____

How does the possible unbelief of a husband affect this instruction? _____

Do Peter's words reject external beautifiers? _____

What, then, is the intent of his words? _____

How is such internal adorning viewed by God? _____

To whom does Peter appeal to encourage such internal beauty? _____

How does Peter's last instruction to wives apply to this discussion? _____

What attitude does the Lord want husbands to have toward their wives? _____

In what way(s) is the wife a "weaker vessel"? _____

(8) Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. (9) Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. (10) For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; (11) let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

(12) For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (13) Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? (14) But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, (15) but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, (16) having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. (17) For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

What is the result when husbands treat their wives according to God's design? _____

How should all Christians behave toward one another? _____

How should all Christians behave toward unbelievers? _____

What is the result of such Godly attitudes and actions? _____

Contrary to human mottos, how does the Lord consider repaying evil for evil? _____

What are the four reasons Peter gives in verses 12-14 for believers not being discouraged by unbelievers' treatment of them? _____

No matter what happens to believers, what assurance is implied in the question of verse 13? _____

Instead of being afraid of such persecutions, what should Christians do? _____

In what attitude of heart and mind should we give our defense? _____

What result will come of such a defense? _____

(18) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, (19) in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, (20) because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

(21) Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (22) who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

How is it better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil? _____

What ultimate example does Peter give for this truth? _____

After His resurrection, what did Jesus do with His glorified body? ____

What does this demonstrate about something Peter previously mentioned in verse 17? _____

By contrast, what did God do for Noah and his family who were persecuted? _____

How were they saved through/by water? _____

To what sacrament does Peter say the waters of the flood correspond? _____

What does Peter say that Baptism specifically does? _____

How does it do that saving? _____

What gives Baptism that power? _____

Compare this to what Paul says in Romans 6:1-11. _____
