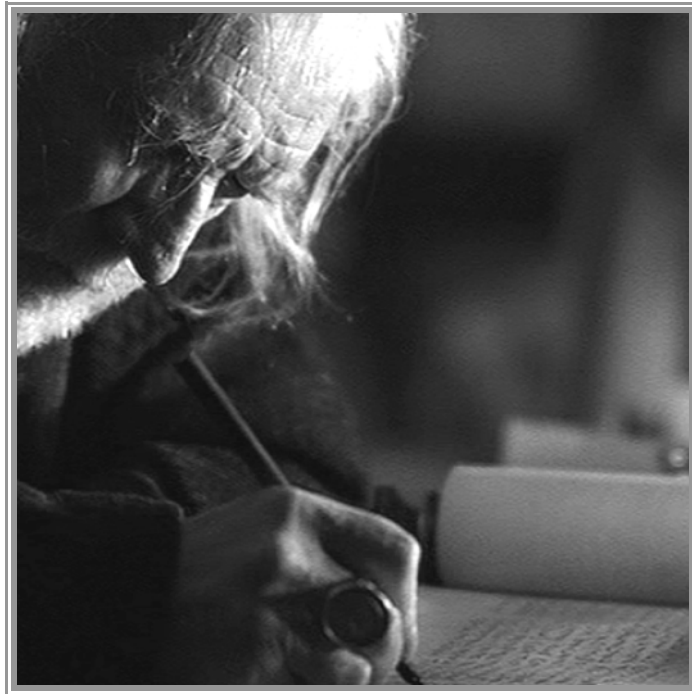


THE WRITINGS OF PETER



STUDY 3

1 PETER 3

Sunday Morning Bible Study

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THE WRITINGS OF PETER

STUDY 3 ~ 1 PETER 3

Introduction – We have been studying the first letter that the Apostle Peter had written to believers. The particular Christians that Peter wrote to were Christians who had been displaced from their homes by the fierce storm of persecution that had begun in the mid 60's AD. They had fled to cities throughout Asia Minor where modern day Turkey now is. These Christians were strangers geographically, socially, and especially spiritually because of their trust in Jesus Christ. If anyone ever felt like "quitting church", this group of believers seemed to have a reason: the whole world was against them. *The teaching of the Holy Spirit through Peter to these people was clear:*

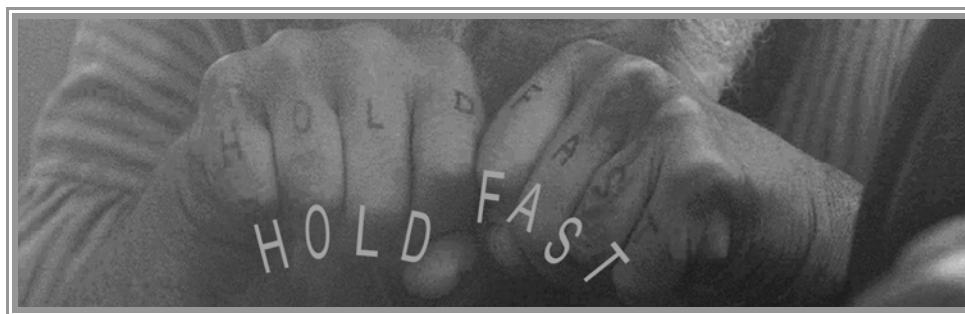
HOLD FAST

HOLD FAST to Who They Were in Christ

HOLD FAST to Their Holy Lifestyle in Christ

HOLD FAST to What They Had in Common with Christ

The instruction for us today is the same when we come under fire for practicing our relationship with Christ:



Turn in your Bibles to 1 Peter chapter 3.

While the bulk of chapter 1 focused on the Christian's salvation and who we are in Christ, most of **chapter 2** instructs Christians on their behavior and their lifestyle in Christ. How Christians should treat each other and the image they portray to the world in order to **not** give the world a reason to attack the believer other than for alignment with Jesus Christ. Because God still intends to attract unbelievers to Himself through the love and unity of Christians even in a hostile world environment. **Chapter 3** completes Peter's instruction regarding our behavior as children of God and then shifts our focus to what we have in common with Jesus Christ.


1 Peter 3:1-2

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any [*husbands*] obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation [*conduct or behavior*] of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste [*modest or pure*] conversation [*conduct or behavior*] coupled with fear [*respect or reverence*]. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be 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. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

Group Questions

- Who are wives to be in subjection to? Their own husbands – not all men.
- What is the reason for this submission to an unbelieving husband's authority? That the unbelieving husband could be drawn or attracted to Christ by the respectful behavior of the born again wife.

- Just what is it that will attract an unbelieving husband to God? Not the way their wives dress outwardly or the “bling” they wear, but the real and eternal part of them, their born again soul and spirit will draw an unbelieving husband to God.
- What about all Christians, how can the invisible part of us, our “hidden man of the heart,” how can that attract unbelievers to God? In the NewU Bible study groups that we have here at Bible Baptist, we study verses that teach Christians how to let the NewU, the born again part of us, shine in this world to impact others for eternity. As Christians learn to distinguish the Holy Spirit’s presence and influence in their lives and choose God’s methods for living life over their own, they visibly appear different on the outside. While the majority of the people in the world seem jaded and frustrated and generally unhappy, Christians walking in the Spirit appear different, we have hope. Hope is very attractive to hopeless people. For all Christians, learning to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh will make all the difference as far as drawing others to Christ.

 **A Commentary Note on Sarah** Sarah is chosen as a specific example of a woman who was **submissive to her husband**. She **obeyed Abraham and called him her master**. That is, she recognized him as the leader and head of their household (Gen. 18:12). Like other holy women of the past, Sarah put her **hope in God**. This kind of conduct gives women the spiritual heritage of Sarah: **You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear** (*ptoēsín*, “terror”—used only here in the NT). Wives who are fearful (perhaps because of disobeying their husbands) are not putting all their trust in God. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament Second Copyright 1983, SP Publications, Inc. All rights reserved Electronic Edition STEP Files Copyright © 1997, Parsons Technology, Inc. Victor Books, A Division of Scripture Press Publications, Inc.

1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

HOLD FAST

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Group Questions

- When Christians are instructed to live life, make choices, and do things “according to knowledge”, what “knowledge” is being referred to? That which has been revealed by God to humanity in His Word, the Bible.
- So what is Peter telling husbands in the first part of this verse? That the way we “dwell” with our wives, all the parts of our lives together, should be based on or influenced by God’s Word. Family life and our households should reflect the husband’s leadership which is founded on the truth of God’s Word.
- Husbands, how are we to honor or respect our wives? By understanding they are the “weaker vessel.”
- What is meant by understanding they are the “weaker vessel?” That God made wives differently from husbands and they should not be treated just as “one of the guys” and that husbands should not place the same level of demand or expect the same degree of performance from the “weaker vessels” that husbands many times place on themselves.
- What can improper respect and misunderstanding in a marriage relationship result in? Prayers not being answered.
- So how does a married couple fix that? By fixing their relationship with each other their relationships with Christ are actually effected.

1 Peter 3:8-13

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing [*hateful speaking*] for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew [*avoid*] evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue [*chase*] it. 12 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 against them that do evil. 13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

Group Questions

- Why does Peter offer all of this instruction on watching what they were **saying to** and **about** each other and how they were to **treat** each other? Just like parents don't want to reward siblings who have been fighting with each other, neither does our heavenly Father want to bless us if we have been attacking one another. Also, a fellow believer will usually respond with the same kindness they are being treated with.
- Who do the persecuted Christians Peter wrote to have for friends in this world? Only each other. It doesn't make sense with all of the enemies of their faith that they would be bickering among themselves and distance themselves from fellow believers.
- Do Christians today need to be warned about how they treat each other? Yes.
- Why do you think we don't value each other as much as we should? Sometimes it is because we have closer relationships with unsaved people of the world than we do with each other.
- Is this how things should be? No. We are not following Biblical teaching when we build stronger relationships with unbelievers than with believers; yet, God leaves the choice up to us.

1 Peter 3:14-18


But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and 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 fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation [*behavior or conduct*] in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. 18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened [*made alive*] by the Spirit:

Group Questions

- In order for a Christian to draw people to Christ because of the “hope” that is in them, what must Christians have in them?
Hope!
- How do Christians get hope in them? By setting Christ apart in their thinking (verse 15). Christians who do not see Christ in their life as the greatest thing about them, will appear no more hopeful than an unsaved person in this world.
- From verses 16-18, what do Christians who are walking in the Spirit have in common with Jesus Christ? He was unjustly persecuted – even to the point of death.
- What comfort do Christians have in knowing Christ also suffered unjustly? **Hebrews 4:15** “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” Our God can relate to us.

1 Peter 3:19-22

By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: 22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

 **A Commentary Note on 1 Peter 3:19** **By which also he went and preached** connotes the agency of the Holy Spirit if we retain the AV translation, **by the Spirit** (vs. 18). In this view, maintaining the continuity between verse 18 and verse 19, the same Holy Spirit who raised Christ from the dead had enabled him to preach to the men of Noah's day through Noah himself. *KJV Bible commentary*. 1997, c1994 (2612). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Group Question

- Can baptism save a person? No. The mechanical performance of water baptism would only make a sinner into a wet sinner. Peter explains this by saying **not the putting away of the filth of the flesh**. What it does mean is just as the ark had something to do with the deliverance of those people from the judgment of the Flood, so baptism, assuming that a person has accepted Christ as Savior, shows outwardly the deliverance that has taken place in the believer's soul and spirit.

On the Worksheet

1. The more **TIME** a Christian spends reading the Bible and praying (growing their relationship with Christ), the more their invisible born again spirit will become **VISIBLE** to this world.
2. The source of **KNOWLEDGE** God intends believers to make life's choices from, is revealed in His Word, the **BIBLE**.
3. **RIFTS** in relationships between believers can interfere with prayers being **ANSWERED**.
4. God does not **BLESS** Christians who **DEVALUE** one another.
5. Christians have visible **HOPE** and attract outsiders to God when the main focus of their thoughts is living for **CHRIST**.

So for this week, let's treat each other well in Christ and remember that He has been there – He can relate to us, **so:**

HOLD FAST

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