



## 1 Peter 3

1 Peter 3:1-7 “Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, <sup>2</sup>when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. <sup>3</sup>Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. <sup>4</sup>Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. <sup>5</sup>For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup>like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. <sup>7</sup>Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.”

- Peter starts Chapter 3 speaking to wives. Why? Let’s go back to the culture and content of the day he wrote these words. In that day, when a man became a Christian, he normally would bring his whole family into the church with him. But a woman who became a Christian could only bring herself into the church.
- You see in Peter’s day, under the Roman law, the husband and father had the authority over all the people in his household – including his wife. As a woman you really had minimal rights. Peter here is saying to women who may be married to an unbeliever – don’t preach to your husband, respect him and let him see your life and what a difference the Holy Spirit makes in your life. Actions can speak louder than words! Two things could happen – the husbands would let their wives keep worshipping God, and, maybe, the husband might become a believer too.
- Peter is taking us out of our comfort zone, in that he is saying look at your heart. Don’t get caught up trying to adorn yourself with gold when your heart is the real issue – both for men and women. Your heart will reflect what is in it – whether we want to or not. Do we show a heart of love for people? If you do, that is what radiates out of your soul and people will notice – and more importantly – God will be glorified.
- Verse 6 – Peter mentions Sarah and Abraham – Why? Sarah was a beautiful lady. Both a pharaoh and a King pursued Sarah’s hand in marriage **the minute they saw her! Wow!** It is not Sarah’s external beauty that Peter writes about though. It is her inner beauty and strength. An inner strength that brought her peace when Abraham put her in danger. When Abraham and Sarah traveled to Egypt, the Egyptians saw Sarah and praised her to their Pharaoh as a future wife. She was taken into his palace – Abraham had told Sarah to say she was his sister out of fear for his own life. Gen 12:12, 13. He used Sara to protect himself – aarrgghh! The Pharaoh treated Abraham well giving him donkeys, servants, camels.
- The Lord comes in and inflicts diseases on Pharaoh and all his household. Pharaoh talks with Abraham and asks him what has he done to bring this illness on his people. When

he finds out Sara is really married to Abraham, he tells Abraham, “take your wife and get out of here.” Pharaoh knew he could not marry Sara under false pretensions.

- Abraham had not trusted God enough, he had lost faith in His God after all that God had done for him. Remember in Genesis 12 God promises Abraham he would be the father of many nations. Boy, Abraham lost sight of that promise. This situation could have been a taste of Abraham’s faith. You see Abraham was afraid if the Egyptians saw Sara, they would kill him because Sarah could not move into the palace while he was still alive. So, Abraham doubt’s Gods protection and lies.
- We see Sarah responding to Abraham’s request as he asked. Sarah is being praised here by Peter not because of her outward beauty – but because she trusted God and obeyed her husband in a dangerous situation rather than giving way to fear.
- Peters verses remind us to focus on inner beauty. Beauty magazines focus on how to be gorgeous women from the outside. If we focus only on the outside of our bodies – we will starve our soul. God will transform all of us when we lay down our sin filled hearts.
- A changed life will speak loudly and clearly on its own.



### Suffering for Being a Christian

1 Peter 3:8-22 “<sup>8</sup>Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. <sup>9</sup>Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup>For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. <sup>11</sup>They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup>For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” <sup>13</sup>Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. <sup>15</sup>But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup>keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup>For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. <sup>19</sup>After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – <sup>20</sup>to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, <sup>21</sup>and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>who

has gone to heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.”

- Peter gives us five tools as believers to serve God and watch His flock grow:
  - Like-minded – live in harmony pursuing the same goal of following Christ
  - Sympathetic – be responsive to each other's needs
  - Love one another – treat each other as brothers and sisters in Christ
  - Compassionate – be sensitive and caring to each other's needs
  - Humble – Encourage one another and rejoice in each other's successes. Likewise, be humble and give your shoulder for a brother or sister to lean on when needed.
- Peter gives us the perfect example of a changed life. The once forceful, loud and domineering Peter evolves to a life of harmony, compassion and love in shepherding a flock for Christ. He no longer draws a sword and cuts of an ear, but rather teaches a strong, quiet faith. He is showing us an example of letting his life be so evident of God's truth and how his life has been changed. He was changed enough to go to crucifixion himself.
- The next few verses Peter preaches peace. When Jesus stood before Pilate, he stood in inner strength. Yes, he knew what was going to happen next. And still, he stood in strength. Too often, we think of peace as a passive role. I humbly think peace is an

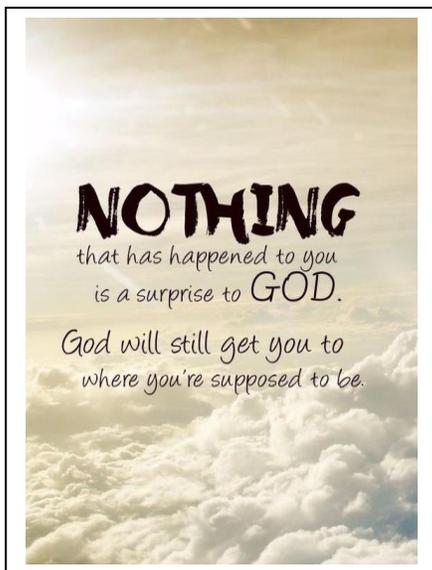


active role. Here is why I say that – it may be a different take than what we have seen with the violence recently in the media. Peace means building good relationships while anticipating problems and talking about them before problems become mountains hard to climb. Conflicts is a part of life, let's talk and agree to come to some form of acceptance for each party involved. I want to build bridges rather than blow up dams. Peace is hard work but it always brings God's blessings to his people.

- Verse 12 reads, “*the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive.*” Let's sit here a second. The eyes and the ears - so God sees what we are doing and hears what we are saying...mmm....He wouldn't take time to see and hear if He were not going to respond to our prayers. Yep, I am banking on him seeing and listening because I sure need his help for life. Even if harm comes, God can bring about goodness.
- Christ was put to death in the physical body but his truth and goodness lives on.
- Vs. 19-21 – these verses are very difficult to understand – there are 180 different schools of thought. Martin Luther, a Protestant reformer, says for these verses, “I do not know for a certainty just what Peter means.” So, I am sure we all will have questions to ask in heaven regarding these verses; like, did Jesus really go down to Hades, the imprisoned spirits were the faithful followers of Jesus in the Old Testament, right?
- End of Chapter 3, notice how Peter is references Noah and water. Noah and his family were saved in the flood of the earth. Seems harsh. Noah's flood waters are a picture of salvation. God's people are born, flourish on the land, turn away from God to false idols,

they promise to serve Him but keep serving false idols. It is the story of birth – turning away from God – exile – redemption and rebirth. This story is told through out all of our bible. Remember the story of Lot and Sara – Abraham pleaded for the Lord to not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah saying there had to be righteous people there. We know that both cities were destroyed and everyone in them.

- I have researched and here is where my thoughts lie – Peter has been writing about suffering in this book. The only other book in the bible that talks about suffering as much is Job.
- We can see that suffering is a part of any believer’s life. Maybe that is why we read in Matthew 7:14, “broad is the way of destruction and narrow is the way of eternal life”. Peter is just saying, make sure your suffering is for the right reasons. Don’t put yourself in a position that you suffer because of your foolish choices. Peter is talking of the suffering that comes about because of our faith, people not respecting it and making life harder for Christians.



○ Example – Some of the sects of Islam hold a funeral when one of them becomes a believer and treat the new Christian as dead and even go so far as to disown them.

○ Example – A science teacher arguing with a Christian student that God did not create the world and doing this in front of the whole class to embarrass the student.

○ Example – The Quran says Jesus did not die on the cross but just fainted because a good prophet would not die a death like Jesus on the cross. Well, if Jesus did not die on the cross for our sins, that means we are carrying our sins and we are not cleansed and made whole to live with him eternally. NO! I will not accept that! Peter tells us in Verse 18 – Jesus was put to death in the flesh.

- Through these scriptures Peter constantly reminds us Christ suffered for us, died for us and rose for us – and waits for us!
- The only way God could bridge the depth of us to Him, was to send Jesus to die for us. If we can trust God with our life, we can trust Him with our suffering.
- The word trust to me is not a superfluous word that is shallow. It is a word of depth in saying I don’t have all the answers, but I am making intentional choices to trust God has his purposes for what He allows in my life. That is tweetable.
- When mother was diagnosed with cancer years ago, I saw a vibrant, beautiful, funny and smart woman become a vegetable. Her eyesight was gone, she could not walk any longer, her body frail and almost lifeless, and I begged God to not let her suffer more. I was mad at God for taking her from me. I was the only girl in my family and I felt cheated. My mother taught me how to die well. She also taught me how to live well while I had the chance. She loved Jesus. Through her I saw him keep her from being in so much pain. I still don’t have all the answers why it was her time to go. But God is dealing with me year

and year and putting my heart at ease in knowing I will see her again. I trust Him to quell the uneasy fears when they come. His thoughts are higher than mine Isaiah 55:9.

- Verse 19 – I will share my struggle with these next few verses- Christ descending into hell and giving unbelievers a second-chance of salvation. My problem with this idea – I cannot find anywhere in the bible where it says you get a second chance after death. OR, did Jesus go and proclaim victory to fallen angels? Hebrews 9:27 says it is appointed once for man to die and then the judgement. And why would Peter be so adamant in his teaching to live a righteous life pleasing to God, if, in fact we might have after death to repent?
- In our Apostles Creed we say that Jesus was crucified, dead and buried, he descended into hell, the third day he rose again from the dead. That tells me that Jesus Spirit went somewhere! He went somewhere and made proclamation (Vs 19). To proclaim something normally means to make an announcement. Did Jesus go make the announcement that he has won the victory through his death? Could be? Well, that is one question I am going to ask when I get to heaven. The point is this – if you suffer for Jesus name, you will join the victory party with Jesus.



Verse 21b – Peter is reminding us of our water baptism. Have you ever worked in the fields harvesting your garden in ninety-degree weather? I have. As a little girl, we had acres of gardens. We collected our produce in wheel barrows. My brothers and I would load vegetables in the hot sun. The salty sweat would course down our faces, burning our eyes. The dirt would become mixed with the sweat and before long you were covered in dust and sweat. Oh boy, but the bath that night – it was heavenly. Ivory soap worked wonders! So too, when you are baptized, and come up out of the water, you are a new creature, clean unto the Lord. Peter says, don't ever forget your baptism. He writes, you may get dirty (suffer) but look up child – you're the child of a King. Hold onto Jesus.

- Verse 22 – Angels, demons and authorities – Everyone and everything will be under the authority of God. Jesus conquered them all.



- Missionaries are still being killed today. The Voice of the Martyrs organization states that 160,000 people are killed every year for Christianity. That comes out to be one every three minutes. 'Missionary in Lebanon until wife was killed by extremists'

<http://www.ambassadorspeakers.com/ACP/speakers.aspx?speaker=224>

- Gary Witherall shares a personal story – He and his wife, Bonnie, went to Moody University and felt a call for missions in Lebanon. They left everything and went. Bonnie worked with pregnant Muslim women at a clinic. Gary worked on building relationship with the nationals. One morning, November 21, 2002, Gary received a call to come to the clinic right outside Beirut. Bonnie had been shot. He ran over to the clinic

and tried to find her. The soldiers held him back. Later he found out his wife was dead. She had opened the door of the clinic and a gunman shot her three times in the face. He did see her lifeless legs on the floor in a pool of blood. Gary cried his heart out. Gary, by the grace of God chose forgiveness. At her funeral Gary got up and preached to the nation, and because of the world press, he preached to many other nations around the world. Gary said, "I forgive this man because Jesus has forgiven me." In his suffering he chose to glorify God. In his suffering he also wrote a book called, "*Total Abandon*".



Gary said, "God has been faithful in my suffering."

Our bibles are not textbooks – this is the word of God. **When we see the Lord Almighty as He is – we will not be able to keep away from the word – we will run to Him in the morning!** We will not want to miss anything He has to say to us today. When Isaiah saw God – he saw him high and lifted up. Proverbs says the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. There is a real fear of God – a holy fear. We have access to the one who created the universe. Ponder on that a moment. This is not a fear of cowering but a fear of holiness knowing whom we worship. Lift his name higher and you will not have as much trouble finding time with Him. You will run to him. Your day will take on a much richer meaning.

### [One Skillet Mediterranean Chicken](#)



**GRECIAN CULTURE IS TO ENJOY A MEAL TOGETHER. LET'S FELLOWSHIP BY MAKING THE RECIPE BELOW IN OUR HOMES. OR MAKE IT AND TAKE TO A FRIEND TO MAKE THEIR DAY!**

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
  - 2 tbsp mince garlic
  - Salt and pepper
  - 1 tbsp dried oregano
  - 2 tbsp Extra virgin olive oil
  - ½ cup dry white wine
  - ½ cup chicken broth
  - 1 large lemon, juice of
  - 1 cup finely chopped red onion
  - 1 ½ cup small diced tomatoes
  - ¼ cup slices green olives
  - Fresh parsley
  - Crumbled feta cheese, optional
- Each serving: 135 Calories, 9.6g protein

- Cut three slits on each side of the chicken breasts.
- Spread garlic on both sides in the slits. Season with salt, pepper and half of the dried oregano.
- Heat 2 tbsp olive oil on medium. Brown chicken on both sides. Add white wine, reduce by half; then add lemon juice and chicken broth. Sprinkle remaining oregano on top. Cover. Cook 10-15 min turning chicken over once.
- Uncover and top with chopped onions, tomatoes and olives. Cover. Cook for three 3 minutes. Add the parsley and feta cheese.
- Serve with pasta, rice or couscous, or, enjoy by itself. Make ahead by cooking chicken breasts. Warm chicken when ready to serve and add toppings. This recipe bursts with flavor – especially fresh tomatoes from the garden!