

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Josh – Sun 30th April 2023

Gospel Centred Living - 1 Peter 3:1-7 – Message Title – A Sacred Submission.

1 Peter 3:1-7 Christian Standard Bible

Wives and Husbands

3 In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by the way their wives live ² when they observe your pure, reverent lives. ³ Don't let your beauty consist of outward things like elaborate hairstyles and wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes, ⁴ but rather what is inside the heart^[a]—the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵ For in the past, the holy women who put their hope in God also adorned themselves in this way, submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You have become her children when you do what is good and do not fear any intimidation.

⁷ Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker partner, showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

If we have been Christian for any length of time, we realise that Christianity is counter cultural.

- In North America in a society that says – what is in my best interests now – what is my best life now.

We follow a saviour who submitted and followed the will of the father – to be unjustly treated – and to die at age 33.

Jesus says – if you want to follow me take up your cross – deny yourself.

This never was and still isn't a popular message.

The apostle followed this example, and we believe the words...

I am the way and the truth; I am the life.

Recap - Last week we looked at 1 Peter 2:11-25

- We are considered strangers/aliens – there is a sense that as believers we are – we live differently – we operate on different principles because – because he will say - you are a holy nation set apart to for God – we live for a different reason.
- To bring praise to God who called us into his marvelous light.

This is what it looks like to live in God's marvelous light – this is what it looks like to follow our saviour.

1 Peter 3:1-7 – there are few instructions that look more radical than this passage – as we think about submission and how the world, we live in considers this.

As Pastors we are instructed to teach the whole council of God.

- This is really important – if we look in verse 20 of chapter 2.

[1 Peter 2:20 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[²⁰ For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.](#)

- [if you endure it, this brings favor with God.](#)

We are teaching that it brings favour to God – we are teaching what is great value in God's eyes.

[1 Peter 3:4 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[⁴ but rather what is inside the heart^{\[a\]}—the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.](#)

- the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

Request to not bring our preconceptions to this text.

- We can bring our own history – our own societies view when we open up the word of God – what can cause us to not actually understand what God is teaching.

Reference made to the Book of Judges and the story of Ehud with King Eglon

- Judges 3:12-30
- Eglon the bible says was a very fat man.
- Ehud and his dagger – killed Eglon.

As we read as North Americans – that Eglon was a very fat man – that would be considered a negative thing in North America.

This is not the context of the Old Testament.

Read in Psalm 73 – Asap saying "I am really struggling in my faith because I saw the wicked were prospering – it describes the wicked this way...

- Even his eyeballs were fat.
- God you are not fair!
- Because this was a sign of success, that they were well to do – that they were able to provide for themselves.
- This brings a whole new light when we realise that this was a very formidable man – when the bible talks about Eglon and that when Ehud went in this was a powerful successful warlord that God used to slay and deliver Israel.

Title of Passage – Sacred Submission.

- Not looking at submission as the world would want to teach us.

- Throw away our perceptions of what we think this is saying and say “God what are you teaching here?”
- what does this look like?”
- What does this mean? – what is the purpose of this?

Most of us – especially if we haven’t been a part of Christianity for long time, have not seen this lived out very much.

Quote G.K. Chesterton.

The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting, it has been found difficult and left untried.

Start Chapter 2 Verse 13 – which is where this passage really launches from.

Living in the light of God’s truth now...

[1 Peter 2:13-14 Christian Standard Bible](#)

¹³ Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor^[a] as the supreme authority ¹⁴ or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good.

Point - When we submit to God’s ordained authority, we are following the fathers will.

- When we submit to God’s ordained authority, we are following our fathers will.
- This is a command – submit yourselves – not optional.

Submit – military term – following your commanding officer – they said okay we will follow your direction.

- Submission is really the same obedience in many ways.

Charles Swindell Quote –

Our problem is not understanding what submission means, our problem really is doing what it says.

- There are no exceptions here.

Question - God says submit to – how many authorities?

- Every human authority.
- There are no exception clauses.
- Civil
- family
- Local church
- Employer

If we were looking to convince people to submit that it was a brilliant idea, we would use tangible examples an illustration or something that they would agree with.

For instance – children obey your parents – because then all the parents would okay that is a good idea – I am wiser and smarter than my children and they need to follow under my directions.

But God doesn't do that - What does God jump to in submit to authority?

After Ch2 V13 he gives us 2 illustrations – 2 examples – they are the worst one possible.

Every human authority includes...

1. Servants submit to your cruel masters.

Christ was an example of this.

2. Wives submit to your husbands, who do not obey the word of God.

The bible is clear – God designed our world with authority – that even one submits to somebody – even Christ himself.

- a. Everyone is under authority in the same way.

Ch 3 Verse 1 – It says, “In the same way.”

- As the men.
- Women you need to submit in the same way.

Philippians 2:8 Christian Standard Bible

⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.

Pastor Josh – “submission is not a female virtue it is a Christian virtue.”

- Women/Men we all submit to every authority.
- We submit by recognising that God is the highest authority.
- God ordains them in their authority, in their realms of leadership.

Romans 13:1-2 Christian Standard Bible

A Christian’s Duties to the State

13 Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God. ² So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God’s command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves.

- God is saying our Christian responsibility is to submit to them.

Reference made to Nero.

Not a righteous man – launched persecution on Christians – nightly tea parties where he pours tar on people and used them as human torches to light the way.

Peter saying to God “even him?” – God saying to Peter “even him Peter, even him.”

- Submission is not a gender issue; it is a Christian issue.

Wives submit yourselves to your husbands.

Question – is that what the text is saying?

- Submit yourself to your own husband, not every man. – biblically it means one man – it’s an important distinction.

This is not a gender issue – there is a leadership component that God has given man to be in the home.

It doesn’t say women be subject to men – it has to do in the home.

- They are not in authority in her life – her husband has been placed in authority in her home.

Submission is not a superiority issue either.

Women are not told to submit here because they are inferior or incompetent.

This is not the idea.

As we look at verse 7 and God speaks to the man, we see this.

1 Peter 3:7

⁷ Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker partner, showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

- Coheirs – equal in value, skill and ability – this is not an equality thing.

This was a revolutionary concept in the time this was written.

Peter addresses this because in religious respect they were considered inferior.

Jewish situation – women were honored in their home – once out of the home there was a lot less honor and value that was placed on the woman.

- But what does the bible do?

One of the most pivotal points when Jesus rose from the dead - who did God ordain would be the first witnesses? – some ladies – God saying no they are equal I have created them in the image of God.

- Greek civilisation – for the most part the wife was stay at home – the husband having all the power.
- Under Roman law she was considered a child and so the father has full rights and until she was past of to her husband, and he had full rights over her – entirely subject and completely at his mercy.

Christianity came and said no – they have value in Christ – there is neither slave nor free in Christ there I neither Jew nor barbarian, neither male nor female – that you are all one in Jesus Christ.

A matter of who God has put in authority.

Application giving of driving along the Vincent Road and being pulled over by the Police we don't see that he is a superior guy and because of that I am going to get out of the

car! – respecting the uniform – representing the government – because of his position – I will follow what he says.

- It is not that we feel inferior to them.

When we submit to our premier it is not that he is superior, it is that God has put him in authority. – God says we are to submit to every human authority.

1 Corinthians 11:3 Christian Standard Bible

³ But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman,^[a] and God is the head of Christ.

Jesus new himself to be equal to God, but he humbled himself and submitted to the direction and the plan of the father.

- Men never lead independently of your wives.

We don't always make better decisions and if we don't listen to our wives that is really foolish because...

- God has given her as a helper suitable to you.
- God says that the man is the leader of the home.

It has been heard said that women are naturally more submissive!

- But what is the command to husband in the marriage –

Marriage – woman submit.

- Verse 7 is a call to men.

⁷ Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker partner, showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Ephesians says – “husbands love your wives”.

- Men love your wives because we are naturally lovers – No!

God is saying I have made this the way I want it to be.

According to Ephesians 5 – are marital roles in the home are not grounded in psychology, they are grounded in theology.

The purpose of marriage being that we would reflect a divine image and a relationship between Christ and the church.

The purpose of marriage is to reflect a divine image.

1. Our marriage points to a greater marriage.

The roles are not interchangeable – Christ is the one who loves us – Christ is the one who have himself for us – sacrifice for us and we respond by submitting.

- Displaying God’s amazing design.
- We seek to be a physical illustration of the beauty of the relationship with Jesus Christ.

Question – Is our marriage making a relationship with Jesus look attractive? - When the people look at your marriage, is it a beautiful reflection of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Part 2 – When we submit to God’s ordained authority, we are effective in our witness.

1 Peter 1

3 In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by the way their wives live.

In the event that a wife is married to her husband, and he has no regard for the word of God, she can win her husband to Christ through her actions.

Peter says – there is something attractive about a submissive spirit.

Titus 2:9-10 Christian Standard Bible

⁹ Slaves are to submit to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back ¹⁰ or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything.

Question – What is the goal of submission?

- To win them - To win them for Christ – influence to surrender to Christ.

Correction of some misunderstanding of what Submission is.

- It is not being passive.
- Submission is an active word.
- Submission is not necessarily agreeing!

Disagreement will come on many things like – how you raise the kids – what you are going to do on a Sunday morning.

What does God say?

- Stay in the marriage because you can be a godly impact for Jesus Christ – dwell with him and win him over. He is saying as much as possible stay with him and win him to Christ.

This often is not easy – you have work out what are the negotiables and non-negotiables.

Daniel is a great example of this as he goes to Babylon and there are a lot of things he didn't agree with.

- He didn't agree with being given the name of a pagan God – but he submitted to it.
- He didn't agree with all the teaching they were teaching him – but he stayed under that.
- And then when it came time to eat food at the king's table - he said I am sorry as much as I want to follow that I can't do that. – I must obey my God.
- But there were a lot of things he submitted to that he didn't agree with.

Unyet, he obeyed and followed under.

Point - Submission secondly is not putting the will of the human authority before the will of Christ.

- Because if he says I forbid you to follow Christ – what is she to say?

I love you and I want to honor you and let's see how we can make this work, but I must obey Christ.

- We always obey the higher authority.

Government and local authority – who has put them in these places? God.

We always obey the highest authority on clear matters.

If your husband places ungodly, unreasonable demands upon you – you must I love you and respect you, but I have to honor God.

- Reference to Daniel and order not to pray.

Question – What did Daniel do?

Quietly went and prayed because he had to obey God.

Verse 4 – there is a word in here.

⁴ but rather what is inside the heart^[a]—the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.

- Quiet – tranquil – undisturbed – graceful way. Like the surface of a lake on a windless afternoon.

He is saying there will be times when there will be disagreement – times when there is tension because you have been asked to do something you can’t do – but you have to go about your things quietly – you have to obey God rather than man.

- Polite - respectful

Point – Submission does not mean being persuasive.

- The goal is for the wife to win her husband to Christ.

Question – If you want to win someone do you nag them, or annoy them or criticize? them?

There are two people in the bible that are called this word and who we are aware of who are meek – gentle.

In verse 4 – the word that God values is – gentle and quiet spirit.

Matthew 5:5 Christian Standard Bible

⁵ Blessed are the humble,
for they will inherit the earth.

There are two people in the bible that are specifically called meek.

- Moses and Jesus.

Question – was Moses called meek because he was the nicest man alive – because he let people walk all over him?

No – he had a strong will – quite the personality – even refusing before God to do as he was being asked to do.

- But even so Moses was meek.

Knowing full well what I prefer, what he would rather do, he yielded to the will of God.

- Jesus was the same way – Jesus wasn't one to have no will of his own.

But in the garden of gethsemane, he said to the father...

– “not my will God, but yours be done”. I will submit – I will follow.

- This quality makes the gospel beautiful.

Peter is saying that if we have this quality in our life, no matter what our spirit is we can make the gospel attractive to those that are around us.

Point - When we submit God Ordained Authority, we reveal our hope in God.

It is one thing to submit to Jesus Christ – the self-sacrificing King of the universe who never makes a mistake.

- But it is a whole other thing to submit to foolable sinful man.

Question – Why can we submit?

[1 Peter 2:5](#)

[⁵ For in the past, the holy women who put their hope in God also adorned themselves in this way, submitting to their own husbands,](#)

- Put their hope in their husbands to make the right choice – is that what it says?

No – they put their hope in God.

Verse 6

⁶just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You have become her children when you do what is good and do not fear any intimidation.

2. Don't fear – don't give way to fear.

An emotional state that is easily rattled by problems and quickly alarmed by what ifs in life.

- What if, what if what if!
- What if my husband makes a bad decision?

But when we chose to submit it shows that we trust God, because God is one who can turn evil to good.

- He is the one who can rescue a bad decision.

"I am not sure this is a good decision, but if it is not against God's word, I will go with it."

Romans 8:28 Christian Standard Bible

²⁸We know that all things work together^[a] for the good^[b] of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

God is the one who change everything, even the heart of kings.

Proverbs 21:1 Christian Standard Bible

21 A king's heart is like channeled water in the LORD's hand:
He directs it wherever he chooses.

- Pray – God open their minds.

Do you believe that God is sovereign enough to know your husband decisions and the end result of those decisions and trusting God to change, guide and even redeem those decisions?

Point - The impact of submission can be far reaching.

Think about Sarah's journey. Genesis 18:3

This records her thoughts – thinking about that we truly are ourselves when we are alone.

“Lord really!”

- Head into the wilderness!

Wives would be thinking, this does not sound very safe!

- But Sarah said “sure”.

Abraham allowed Lot to take the best.

- Sarah – “I still think you are crazy, but if that is the way you are going, then okay”.

The bible says that Sarah submitted to Abraham – but what did that accomplish?

- Salvation for the whole world
- The bible says through Abrahah and Sarah the whole world would be blessed – through that act of submission.

The whole world will be...

Question to the church.

1. Do we show our trust in God in the way we submit to the authorities over us?
2. Do our authorities find us a delight to lead even when we disagree? – this opening up a door for the gospel.

We can disagree, but sometimes as Christians we can be disagreeable!

Question - If you are in a place of authority do you model it well?

If we have people, you lead – are we modelling well? because we can see that the husband sometimes has two model of submission!

- One for himself and one for his wife.

There are not two models we are all under authority.

Do we model it well?

- In the home the wives are called to submission – but the husbands are called to love.
- Both require us to run for Jesus – so we have marriages that are a beautiful picture of the relationship that Christ wants with us.
- That relationship matters – that beautiful eternal relationship.
- We want people to be in that beautiful relationship with Jesus – that is the offer that is available.

Think of the offer that is available in Philippians Ch 2 that we read in the beginning.

- Let this mind be in you – was also in Jesus Christ – who though he was equal with God – submitted to the will of the father – endured the cross – despised the shame – and is sat down at the right hand of the throne of God –

Continuing on – that every knee should bow, and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Question - Why do we pursue as the people of God the value and quality of submission?

It is so that people would say wow what a wonderful, beautiful picture of Jesus Christ, I want to be in that relationship – I want to be under his protection – under his love – under his care.

Jesus says –

Matthew 11:28-30 Christian Standard Bible

²⁸ "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take up my yoke and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- This is the offer that Christ has – I want a relationship with you.

Church – it is our call to make that offer look beautiful – to have a beautiful illustration of that offer in our homes in the way that we respond to the authorities in our homes.