



Series Title: "Exiles: A Study of the First Letter of Peter"
 Message Title: "Marriage for Exiles"

Date: February 27, 2022
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Reference: 1 Peter 3:1-7

Here are some key points from the passage:

- These verses have too often been used manipulatively to justify subjection and even abuse of women.
- We believe the Bible teaches that the relationship between men and women is to be *complementarian*, not *egalitarian* and not *domineering*.
- Women and men are to be submitted to the authority of God in their relationship to one another.
- This is all for God's glory and for our good.

Message Notes:

Reminder: we are exiles, not part of the culture where we live. We are not part of the world's culture. We have another homeland. We are where we are by the sovereignty and grace of God. And we look forward to the eternal satisfaction that we will know when Christ returns.

As exiles, we live differently from the culture. Greco-Roman culture in Peter's Day was completely male-dominant. "Women, children and slaves" were property and had no rights. This is *misogyny*, hatred or contempt for women.

The heart of God is for something entirely different. It always has been.

Peter (in agreement with Paul) tells the women of the time that they are valued and have an important role in Christian marriage. Consider that he assumed women and men would be together as this letter was read.

Both women and men are instructed to be "submitted," and Peter uses "likewise" to refer

back to his instruction on submission to the government.

For women, the "gentle and quiet spirit" in vv. 3-4 does not mean silence. It means a spirit devoted to God. This spirit may even turn an unbelieving husband's heart toward God.

For men, being submitted means actively cultivating understanding, and actively giving honor to their wives. Men are to be diligent students of their wives and understand their role and their needs.

"Weaker vessel" in v. 7 does not mean "inferior" in any way. It refers (in general) to the physical strength of men compared to women.

Culturally, we see men using physical strength to dominate women. Peter says, in no uncertain terms, "Stop that!"

Peter reminds men that they are "joint heirs" with their wives of God's grace and the promise of eternity with Christ. He also tells men that by "living in an understanding way and showing honor" to wives, their prayers are not hindered.

Complementarianism

cf. Ephesians 5:22-23; Genesis 3:16; 1 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2-3; Titus 2

This is the theological view that although men and women are created equal in their being and personhood, they are created to complement each other via different roles and responsibilities as manifested in marriage, family life and religious leadership.

This is in contrast with *egalitarianism*, which holds that not only are all people equal before God in their personhood, but also that there are no gender-based limitations of what functions or roles each can fulfill in the home, the church and society.

The Shift Church is *complementarian*.

- Think back to your youth. How did you picture the man or woman of your dreams?
- Why do you think Peter wrote more instructions for women than for men?
- Peter starts verse 1 with “Likewise...” How is the submission Peter describes in 3:1-7 similar in purpose to that in 2:13-15?
- What personal qualities are included in this understanding of submission?
- Do these verses require that wives remain in abusive or unsafe situations? Why or why not?
- How do these instructions show God’s loving care for wives?
- In what ways are husbands instructed to live in the same way as their wives?
- How can husbands “show honor” to their wives?
- Whether or not you are married, what qualities described by Peter do you want to include in your own life?

My Notes and Questions