

faith, hope, love

1 Peter 3:1-22
Inductive Discovery Lesson 10

Submitting in Hope Being submissive is not a trait the world admires. Our do-as-you-please culture associates submission with being passive or unable to stand up for yourself. It rubs against our cherished belief that success is measured by confidence and how assertive you can be. As women, we feel pressure to please others without losing—or worse yet, never finding—ourselves. The notion of a wife submitting to her husband is viewed, even by some Christians, as outdated and unrealistic.

While Peter would find modern marriage very different from his day, he would quickly recognize that some things never change. The bend of our nature is focused on self. What do I think? What do I want? What do I need? Left unchecked, self-centeredness always causes friction and disharmony in any relationship.

In chapter three, Peter emphasizes the need for believers to have a good testimony and a godly response in any situation. He calls for harmony in the home, where the wife submits to her husband's leadership and the husband sets his own interests aside to care for his wife. He calls for harmony in the church, where believers submit to one another in love, compassion and respect. He calls for a strong witness in the community where believers submit themselves to God and turn obstacles into opportunities to proclaim the reason for their hope

background In the Roman world of Peter's day, marriage was arranged by the fathers. Girls typically married around age 14; the groom was more likely to be in his mid-20's to early 30's. While husbands and wives often had genuine affection for each other, love was not the deciding factor in who you married. Husbands had authority over their wives in every aspect of marriage, including religion. A wife was expected to profess the religion of her husband as part of her obligation to the marriage contract. If a wife became a Christian, she could expect tension at home. An unbelieving husband might consider her unfaithful to him and his household gods. Peter's instruction was for all husbands and wives, and he showed particular sympathy for the Christian woman who must live her faith in spite of indifference or outright opposition in her own home.

1 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 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.

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.

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 prison¹, **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.

¹ vs. 19 ***"spirits in prison"*** This phrase is a subject of debate among Bible scholars. If you have time, you may want to research the various explanations given. In light of Peter's topic—that Christ's death brings victory over sin and the power of Satan—he is probably referring to fallen angels (see 2 Peter 2:4 & Jude 6-7). After His crucifixion, Christ went to these imprisoned angelic beings and proclaimed final victory over death and Satan.

OBSERVE

Start by reading the entire chapter at least once. Now read each section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to keep track of information you get from other sources such as scripture references, a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions**. *Do your best to follow Peter's train of thought.* Does he use a word or phrase repeatedly, or emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

1 Peter 3:1-7

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

1 Peter 3:8-12

Facts from the passage:

[illegible]

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

1 Peter 3:13-22

Facts from the passage:

[illegible]

My Research and Personal Observations:

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled paper. It features multiple sets of horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. The lines are light gray and extend across the entire width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

Key Words and Phrases

Write the definition of the following words and phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a Bible concordance with Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“submissive” (vs. 1,5) _____

“chaste” (vs. 2) _____

“suffer” (vs. 14,17,18) _____

INTERPRET

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLY

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

1 Peter 3 :1-7

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

_____ ?

1 Peter 3 :8-12

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

_____ ?

1 Peter 3:13-22

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

_____ ?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.

Up close and personal

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 .

1 Peter 3:15 ESV

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.

Meditate on God's Word

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just *think and pray* about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

You and I need to be willing to contend for truth.
But there's a fine line between contending for truth and being contentious.
We have to live and speak and interact with others in a spirit of humility.

- Joshua Harris -

[illegible]

