

Small Group Outline for week of November 16, 2020
1 Peter 3:1-7 Wives & Husbands: Submission & Adornment

Welcome & Introduction

We are halfway through November and Christmas is only 5-6 weeks away:

- How are you feeling about Christmas this year?
- Share about any decorations or lights you have put up; or haven't.
- What are you hoping for this Christmas?
- Spend some praying for each other in regards to Christmas concerns and joys.

This past weekend, Pastor Joel Cormie of Grace Point Church, preached further into our series on First Peter. (Sermon notes in italics)

Read together 1 Peter 3:1-7

- What are your initial thoughts about this passage?
- Have someone read Ephesians 5:21-33.
- Have someone read Colossians 3:18-19
- Note any similarities and differences.
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Discussion: Submission

The content of Peter's instruction, as he writes about honorable conduct and good deeds, can be summed up, almost entirely, in one-word: Submission.

The Principle of Submission:

We see the idea of submission in the opening verse of each relational example he gives us:

- 2:13: *"Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution."*
- 2:28: *"Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect."*
- 3:1 *"Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands."*

For many of us, myself included this message from Peter is nothing short of unsettling. It's as countercultural as you can get. For Peter the good and honorable work of the Christian community is nothing if it is not submissive to authority.

Application Question from Sermon: "Does the sum and substance of your Christian life—your good works before a watching world—come down to some blind adherence to a principle called submission? No!"

Submission defines the Christian's ways because "being like our Savior" describes the Christian's goal. What pulls this part of Peter's letter together is the meekness and submissiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:21 "For to this you have been called," Peter wrote, "because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps."

The one we are to imitate stands at the center of every call to submission. We imitate Jesus.

Discuss your thoughts and feelings about submission. Compare that to the example of Jesus. How do you need to change in this area of submission?

Discussion: External and Internal Adornment

1 Peter 3:3 "Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—"

In Peter's culture, like our own, they had an obsession with external adornment. Women were under enormous pressure to look beautiful. They were fixated on their hair, their jewelry,

and their clothing. And Peter's response to all this is that it simply isn't Christian to be that way. Christian women should not be overly concerned with their external beauty.

Now Peter is not advocating for no more jewelry or hair styling, I mean he also includes clothing among his list of external adornment. So, he's not saying Christian women should exclude these things. Rather, Peter's concern is one of emphasis. He's saying don't be incessantly preoccupied with how you look on the outside to the disregard of how you look on the inside.

Discuss: this can be both a female and male issue. Talk about how people can get pre-occupied with how they look.

Personal Reflection: are you in any way, even sometimes, pre-occupied with how you look? We want to be presentable and appropriate, but are we overdoing it?

Fun discussion: Do you think there is too much attention to how we dress for Church? Why or Why not?

Husbands and Wives / Men and Women:

Divide into two groups; one of men only, and women only.

Share with each other and pray for each other: what is one or two things that you could do to be a more godly man or woman; a godlier wife or husband?

Back to Together

- Pray for our Church in the midst of the current Critical Code Red restrictions. (if applicable)
- Pray for those who are isolated due to health and loneliness
- Think about 3 people each, outside of your small group, that you could call and talk with and pray together with.