

1st Peter—Group Study Questions #9

Connecting With One Another

If you were to pause and take an honest 'snapshot' of where you find yourself right now—emotionally, physically, spiritually, relationally—are you encouraged, anxious, feeling 'stretched' or calm? Note: there is NO ranking of relative stability but only honesty. Spend some time connecting with one another about your real life right now. Any changes from last week?

Entering 1 Peter

Take a few minutes to recall how the 'grounding' verses (chapter 2:11,12) began diving into some new material:

- In what particular ways do you feel other folks "accuse you of doing wrong" by your following of Jesus? (eg. retorts, glances, snubs, e-mails, 'anonymous' Facebook posts)
- What are some specific practical ways that we can live "good lives" in our present jangled culture?

Encountering the text together

READ 1 Peter 3:1-7 together out loud—SLOWLY—in one or two different translations (perhaps even in non-English languages if this is helpful).

- In the light of what Scott shared about Greco-Roman "Household Codes" and the "right ordering of society" in the 1st century – is there anything about this passage that stands out to you (which you might not have otherwise noticed?)
- Take a moment to share any and all of your initial observations, words that puzzle you or catch your attention, ideas that resonate or feel unsettling.
 - Do you notice any similarities or differences between what was considered appropriate and attractive for wives in Peter's 1st century and our own?
 - In our own culture, who are considered 'good wives' (be specific with names, including celebrities)
 - Why are these women considered noteworthy and worthy to copy in their dress and behaviour?
 - Just WHY are we naturally drawn to beauty instead of ugliness or shamefulness?
- For Peter, what are the particulars that constitute real beauty?
 - Are these things worthy to follow in real-life 2022 or are they passé?
 - Is Peter advocating passive assent toward husbands or active pursuit of Jesus-echoing behaviour?

- For Peter, what are the “in the same way” (verse 7) attitudes and behaviours that husbands must exhibit?
 - To whom are husbands to show respect? (Feel free to look back in his letter to identify specific folks)
 - What ‘place’ do wives occupy for husbands? What is the crucial difference between “live with” and “live over” (see verse 7)? And is this perhaps different from your own upbringing?
 - For husbands, what is the appropriate place of aggression, marital ‘chain of command’ and grasping for power? Why do you think this?
 - When addressing husbands, what are some practical reasons Peter cautions against conduct that doesn’t echo the attitude and behaviour of Jesus? If it helps, recall some examples of Jesus’ attitude and behaviour towards women in the gospels.

Praying Alongside One Another

- Take time to pray out of what you’ve discussed and shared – praying for one another and others who might also come to mind. Perhaps begin with a time of quiet reflection and allow God to speak to you.
- Pray for each other as individuals, as a group, as Lambrick’s congregation, as God’s expression through us, and others of his people all over the world.