

Within the Word

A Study of 1 Peter 3

A Note from Kathy

A surgeon's scalpel is a very effective tool, in the right hands. With his scalpel, a good surgeon can fix a health problem and improve our quality of life. In the wrong hands, or used in a careless fashion, a scalpel can maim or kill. Peter shares, with wives, the truth about the most valuable tool we have to win our husbands to Christ. Even if you are not married, this will be of great value in your relationships with the men in your life.

Observation

1. Previously, in chapter 2, we saw Peter instructing believers as to their relationships in the world around them. As much as it depends on us, we are to live peaceably with others, submitting to those in authority. This requires humility and sacrifice. In chapter 3, Peter turns his attention to the personal relationship with our mates. Even if you are not married, this can be of great help to you in your relationships. Remember, all scripture is profitable for the child of God. Notice he says, "Wives, in the same way be submissive." What does he mean by, "in the same way?" Read 1 Peter 2:23.
2. Notice we are not instructed to submit to all men, but to our own _____.
3. This submission serves a heavenly purpose. God, in his grace, allows us to play a part of drawing someone to Him. Notice the words of verse 1 that point to God's greater purpose?
4. There are people who misquote verse 3. They take it out of context, and twist it to mean something never intended. Peter is not saying that wives should not look nice. Most men want their wife to look appealing, but Peter reminds them that outward beauty fades and is second to true, inner beauty. The grace of God in us grows more beautiful the longer we adorn ourselves with it. What are some words that describe a wife with unfading, inner beauty?
5. According to verse 5, wives are instructed to submit to their husbands, in order to follow the example of _____, who placed their hope in God.
6. Peter admonishes wives, "do not give way to fear." What must we remember that will keep us from fearing? What is our hope?

7. Next, Peter addresses husbands. Notice, he says, “in the same way be considerate.” Another translation says, “live in an understanding way.” What do you think this verse is saying?
8. How are men instructed to treat their wives? I don’t know anyone who will not respond favorably when treated this way.
9. What is the warning to men who do not treat their wives as instructed?
10. In verse 8, Peter summarizes all the virtues he has been trying to share. List them below.
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11. What is the only way that Christians are to pay back evil or insult?
12. In verses 10-12, Peter sounds a bit like James. James said, anyone who is never at fault in what he says is a perfect man, complete and able to keep his whole body in check. What advice does Peter give us, so that we can experience joy and see good days?
13. How does Peter instruct us to respond, regarding the hope that we have in Christ Jesus? Read verses 15-16, in several different translations, in order to gain greater understanding as to how we should share Christ with others.
14. How was God’s patience seen in the story of Noah?
15. Jesus accomplished all the Father had sent him to do. He paid the price, once for all, and has been exalted to a position of authority, power, and praise. Where is Jesus today?

Application

1. After reading this chapter, how have you been challenged in your role as a wife? What specific steps are you prepared to take, in order to walk in obedience to the Lord?
2. If you are not married, what have you gleaned from verses 1-6 that will help you walk in obedience to God?

3. What are some ways men and women can promote the harmony God desires us to experience with one another?
4. What is empathy? How might we show it?
5. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to show love, compassion, and humility to one another. Where is the best place to start?
6. As I read the instructions given in verses 10-12, I felt compelled to ask God to reveal areas where I needed to turn from evil, do good, and seek peace. Give yourself a moment with God, and ask Him to help you see opportunities that He is sending your way. Consider how you can put this into practice this week, and throughout your life. Be prepared to share your thoughts in your small group. Your thoughts just may spark an idea in someone else's heart.
7. Verse 15 reminds believers to always be prepared with an answer for the hope that we have in Jesus. If we are not careful, we can be so busy with the events of our day that we neglect the things of eternal value. When was the last time you shared the reason for your hope? Why not ask God for an opportunity?
8. Peter reminds us that Noah built an ark in obedience to God, but in all the years of building, not one person outside his immediate family repented. We do not know if the people we share the gospel with will repent and be saved, but we must be faithful and share with them. Who could you share the good news with this week?
9. What key thought do you want to take away from your time in 1 Peter 3 this week? Look back through the chapter for a verse that spoke to you, and write it below.