



1 Peter

The Journey Home

A Godly Influence

1 Peter 3:1-7

Message #7 of 12 – S684

Sermon given on April 10, 2016



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Godly InfluenceA Godly Influence

1 Peter 3:1-7

Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 Peter 3**
- Today, we continue our series through the first letter from Peter –
The Journey Home
- Early in Peter's letter he quoted the Old Testament **1 Peter 1:15-16**
...as He who called you *is holy*, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, because it is written, "*Be holy, for I am holy.*"
- When we live a holy lifestyle it releases a tremendous amount of influence on those who come into contact with us
- Years ago, a woman went to her pastor
- She was married to an unbeliever and she was struggling
- With a broken heart and tears in her eyes, she shared with him everything she had been doing to try to bring her husband to Christ
- She told him about all the books she had bought for him to read, which he didn't read
- All the tapes she had brought home from church for him to listen to, which he didn't
- She told her pastor about the times she had tried to convince about the truth of the Bible, but he only mocked her and refused to believe
- The pastor patiently waited for her to finish – then he told her to stop – stop buying books – tapes – stop preaching at him
- He told her to 'walk your talk'
- He was telling her to live a holy life in her husband's presence
- As she drove home from church she was mad – 'That pastor doesn't know what I am going through – doesn't know what he is talking about'
- After she finished venting – she heard the Lord say to her, 'He's right!'
- And so that was what she did
- Her husband didn't respond right away, I have always been a little stubborn

- But eventually something about the way Kelly was living her life made me curious about the God she believed in
- And God in His grace met me and saved my soul
- One woman living out what we are going to look at today, was used by God to change my heart and my eternity
- If you are able and willing to do so, please stand as we read today's text as a sign of reverence for God's Word
- Read **1 Peter 3:1-7**
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Godly Influence**
- Peter is addressing the married people of this church he is writing to
- Calling A Godly Influence to live a holy lifestyle with their spouse
- And the hope of this lifestyle is that those spouses will respond
- This is not limited to the marriage relationship
- A holy lifestyle will influence others around you, whether you are married or not
- Parents can influence children – employees can influence coworkers and employers – families can influence neighbors – children can influence friends
- A holy lifestyle is powerful – lets them see Jesus
- Peter first addresses the wives in the congregation
- Will give us three attributes of a godly wife
- First attribute – **Submitted to God and to Husband**
- **1 Peter 3:1-2**
- Previously Peter had told the church that they should submit to the government, and then to their employers
- 'likewise' = in the same way – wives are to submit to their husbands
- Some would like us to believe that this is outdated concept that devalues, enslaves, or oppresses women
- The apostle Paul wrote **Galatians 3:28**
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- Paul is not saying that gender identity is nullified in Christ

- Saying that when it comes to spiritual things, especially salvation, there is no difference
- Submission is a fundamental part of Christianity – is a part of holiness
- No submission = no holiness
- Failure to submit to God is called rebellion – and that includes all of His commands
- Failure to submit to the government = rebellion against God
- Failure to submit to your employer = rebellion against God
- And here, wives – failure to submit to your husband = rebellion against God
- Peter tells his readers what the possible result of obeying God by submitting to their husbands might be – ‘may be won’
- I stand here as witness to the absolute truth of verses 1 and 2
- I was won by observing the chaste conduct of my wife as she submitted herself to God and to me in faith
- The second attribute of a godly wife – **Inner Beauty**
- **1 Peter 3:3-4**
- This world expends an enormous amount of energy helping women to be beautiful
- But it only focuses on outward adornment
- At some point in every woman’s life she begins a losing battle against the effects of life, time, and gravity of her beauty
- Guys are affected by those same things, we just seem to care as much
- Peter is not saying women shouldn’t try to look beautiful
- God loves beauty and He doesn’t object to women enhancing their natural beauty
- Except when they do it while neglecting the hidden person of the heart
- Peter identifies two characteristics of this hidden beauty – gentle and quiet spirit
- Gentle = meek or humble – quiet = tranquil, not stormy
- Those same terms describe Jesus **Matthew 11:29-30**
Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.
- Peter says two things about this inner beauty
- First – incorruptible – life, time, and gravity can’t touch it

- Second – very precious in the sight of God
- A woman living a holy life submits to God and her husband and has a gentle and quiet spirit
- Her husband and family will be influenced toward Christ and God sees her as precious
- Third attribute of a godly wife – **Trusts in God**
- **1 Peter 3:5-6**
- A woman who is submitting to an imperfect husband and maintaining her inner beauty is proving she trusts God
- Peter calls upon Sarah as his example
- Many examples in the OT – Ruth, Esther and Mary, the mother of Jesus in the NT
- Most Christians will say that they trust God
- But saying you trust God doesn't prove that you trust God
- You can only prove that you trust God when there is a visible reason to trust God
- A godly wife proves that she trusts God when she submits to a man who is not worthy of her submission
- A godly wife proves that she trusts God when she retains a gentle and quiet spirit while all the world around her is in chaos
- I am so thankful that God, in His amazing grace, blessed me with a godly wife
- She is not perfect, but her positive influence in my life challenges me to be a better man, husband, father, son, and pastor
- Wives, if you want to be a godly influence in the life of your husband; submit to God by submitting to your husband, nurture your inner beauty by developing a gentle and quiet spirit, and with all your ability trust in God for everything
- Peter had a lot to say to the wives, but he doesn't leave out the husbands
- **1 Peter 3:7**
- Peter gives husbands two quick exhortations
- First – ‘dwell with them with understanding’

- I'm not sure which is harder – for a wife to submit to her husband or for a man to understand his wife
- For a man to really know his wife requires time, mutual honesty, mutual openness, patience, sensitivity, and most of all, love
- The second exhortation – ‘giving honor to the wife’
- A godly husband is respectful to his wife, he esteems her and her role in the relationship and family
- He will impart value and worth to her, he will esteem her
- Peter includes two justifications for giving honor to the wife
- First – ‘as to the weaker vessel’ – not suggesting that she is inferior
- It is talking about physical strength compared to men
- It is a biological fact that men are typically stronger than women
- I am stronger than Kelly, except when I try to tickle her – then she gets superhuman strength
- Because women are physically weaker, they are vulnerable to the strength of men
- Any man that uses his strength against his wife dishonors her and is acting in an ungodly way, and shouldn't be surprised if God uses His strength against that ungodly husband
- Second justification for giving the wife honor ‘as being heirs together of the grace of life’ **Romans 8:16-17**

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...

- My wife is the daughter of Almighty God
- If I am going to be a godly husband I need to give her the honor due her based on her position in the kingdom of God – the daughter of the King
- Peter ends this section with a warning and a motivation to do what he is saying – ‘that your prayers may not be hindered’
- Prayer is an amazing privilege that we, as Christians, have
- We are able to talk to God directly through prayer
- And the Bible says He hears us, and responds to the prayers of His people
- And in Hebrews we are told that we can do so boldly = having the confidence of knowing that God will receive us

- Sin gets in the way of our prayers – hinders them – obstructs them
- I don't want anything getting in the way of my prayers
- And so I will do my best to dwell with my wife with understanding, trying to honor her as the daughter of the King of Heaven
- And because the word 'likewise' is in verse 7, I believe the same warning applies to wives
- If you want God to hear and respond to your prayers; submit to your husband, nurture your inner beauty, and trust in God for everything
- It is my humble opinion that marriage done God's way is the most beautiful thing that He ever created
- And marriage done God's way has the power to influence others toward Christ
- Godly, holy lives, married or not have the power to influence the people around them for the good
- Today, let's all commit to being the light that Jesus saved us to be
- Amen–**Pray**