

1 Peter
Part Five: Bring It Home
Pastor Rick Henderson March 4-5, 2023

SERIES THESIS: Let your **IDENTITY** drive your **ACTIVITY**.

1 PETER 3:1-7 *Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*

Jesus is the lens through which we see **OURSELVES**. And we are the lens through which others see **JESUS**.

HERMENEUTICS 101

- The author determines the meaning, the reader discovers it.
- Bombard the text with questions.
- **Context is supreme.**
- Use clear passages to interpret unclear ones.

QUESTION: What was a typical home like in Roman culture?

THE ROMAN HOUSEHOLD

- Husbands/fathers were the authorities over the household, and everyone was subordinate to them.
- Husbands/fathers had the legal authority to kill infant children without the consent of the wife.
- Husbands/fathers arranged marriages for their children.
- Husbands/fathers had the ability to force their adult children to divorce.
- Both men and women could opt for divorce, but the laws favored men financially.
- Because marriages were arranged, it was common and permissible for a man to have an affair. It was not acceptable for married women to have an affair.
- Domestic abuse was technically illegal. To be fair, abuse in the Roman world falls short of a modern understanding.

A wife ought not to make friends of her own, but to enjoy her husband's friends in common with him. The gods are the first and most important friends. Wherefore it is becoming for a wife to worship and to know only the gods that her husband believes in, and to shut the front door tight upon all queer rituals and outlandish superstitions. For with no god do stealthy and secret rites performed by a woman find any favour. —Plutarch

QUESTION: Is Peter *responding* to what is or *revealing* what should be?

- If New Testament household codes reveal what should be, why do they perfectly parallel Greco-Roman ideals?
- If New Testament household codes reveal what should be, why do we reject slavery?

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1 PETER 3:7 *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, **so that** nothing will hinder your prayers.*

Men who can't be bothered to **SUBMIT** to their wives shouldn't bother **SUBMITTING** their prayers.

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If it's not beneath the **KING** to submit, it certainly isn't beneath his **SERVANTS**.