

# Do Not Be Surprised at the Fiery Ordeal Among You

## An Expositional Journey Through 1Peter

### 1Peter 3:1-7

#### 33- Godly Husbands, Fellow-Heirs, and Hindered Prayers- Part 1

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September 30, 2018

#### 1 Peter 3:1-7

**1** In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

**2** as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

**3** Your adornment must not be *merely* external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

**4** but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

**5** For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

**6** just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

**7** You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

To the Glory of God

Now there is a lot of talk today about what has become known as the "Culture". And every nation has one. For example, there is a "*British Culture*", a "*French Culture*", and an "*American Culture*". But, exactly, what *is* the "Culture"? How do we define it? Because the Culture is not an animal, vegetable, or mineral. It isn't a solid, liquid, or gas, and it doesn't breathe or eat or take up space. And yet, it is one of the biggest and most important aspects of our lives.

The American Culture really can't be defined by our language or our financial status or our cuisine. So, what is it? And the reason I am asking the Question is because it is one of the most common subjects about which people talk. For example, many politicians run for Office so they can "transform the culture". Entire Christian Ministries are in business to "re-capture the American Culture" that, *evidently*, has been either lost or stolen.

So, it would seem to me, since the Culture is so important and so prevalent that we could define it very easily. And yet, many seem to struggle at actually telling me what it is. So, let me give it my best shot:

**The Culture:** The sum total of all the communication, all the attitudes, all the decisions, and all the actions that dominate a large group of people.

So, the "American Culture" would be the sum total of all the communication, attitudes, decisions, and actions of the majority of the people of the United States that *dominate* our nation. And certain aspects rise up from that.

For example, even though it is rapidly changing, the overall majority of the American people speak English, or a *derivative* of English. The majority of American people love things like "Freedom" and "Liberty", and they work hard, they pay their bills, and they seek to give their children a better life than they had. The overall majority of the American people treat one another with kindness, and when there is a "National Emergency", like 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina, we temporarily drop our Social and Political differences, and we "come together" in amazing acts of kindness and sacrifice that literally astound the world.

And nobody teaches this. This happens *spontaneously*, based on the fact that the "American Culture", with all of its faults and blemishes, is still *dominated* by a "Spiritual Principle"; it is *permeated* by an "Ethic" that is both Absolute and Eternal. And that Principle has several components to it such as:

- ✓ A *general belief* that hard work is valuable
- ✓ A *general belief* that we are accountable for what we do
- ✓ A *general belief* that there are some Moral Absolutes

✓ *A general belief* that “living rightly” provides for a better life

... and these “vague generalities” that run through every aspect of our Culture are based on a single Concept:

A general belief in a god or a “supreme being”

So, it certainly isn't that everybody in American is saved. I don't think that has ever been true. From the very beginning of this now 230+ year old “experiment with Democracy”, there were atheists and agnostics and deists, and a whole host of people deceived by false religions and heresies.

But there was, and there still is, an “Ethic” that *dominates* the American Culture. Some call it a “Judeo-Christian” Ethic, but I think a better term would be a “Biblical” Ethic. For example, even though many are trying as hard as they can to *erase* our history, the reality is that our entire Judicial System is based on “English Common Law”, and English Common Law is based on the Ten Commandments found in **Exodus 20**. And that isn't my *opinion*, that is a fact of history.

But we are living in a time when the foundational Concept and the prevailing Ethic that underpins our Culture is going through a radical and profound transformation. More and more people live in this country and are being born who either do not know or do not care what this Ethic that dominates our nation is all about.

And this has caused great consternation among many. And many efforts are underway right now, by many people, to either “restore” the Culture on one side, or “transform” it on the other. And this is what people are talking about when they use the term the “Culture War”. And the people of this nation are rushing to and fro to be on one side or the other of this great battle. And the “Line of Demarcation” in this “War” is the “Culture”.

And leading the charge in helping to divide the people on one side or the other is the *politicization* of this War. The notion that if we simply get the “right people” into positions of power, we can “win”. And because almost everything in America today has become political, the only goal is “winning”. But, in order for one side to “win”, the other side has to “lose”. And this means that *everything* going on now in the political arena is *not* about what is “right”, or what would be “helpful”,

or what would even fight "evil" (which is the primary purpose of Government according to the Bible), but both sides are determined to "win", by any means necessary, by *forcing* the other side to "lose". And so, *anything* that can be said, and *any action* that can be engaged in, is acceptable. *Every effort, no matter how unfair or untrue*, is now justified, as long as "our side" wins.

But, by default, that means that, many times, there are no longer any efforts to even discuss an issue rationally, so that a good and workable and productive solution can be found. There doesn't seem to be any rules anymore. And so, *everything* is fair game because each side is focused on one thing, *decimating* the other. And that is what happens when the only thing that matters is politics.

But I am here today to beg you to understand that the very nature of people, and the very fabric of the American Culture, is such that neither Politics nor politicians can solve the problem with our Culture. What is fundamentally wrong with us as a people and as a nation is *not* something that Government can fix. There is no Policy, no Law, no Edict or Mandate, no political philosophy from those who rule over us that can fix this Issue. There is no man, no woman, and no political platform that can "fix" the Culture. And, that is because, if it is true that the Culture is the sum total of all that we say and do and think, then only by changing what we say and what we do and what we think can we fix the Culture.

But to change what we say and what we do and what we think *requires* that *we* change. You see, if what I think is contributing to breaking my Culture, then only by *altering* the way I think can the Culture be fixed. But how do we change the way people think? Only by changing *who they are*. Because if I can be radically and fundamentally *transformed*, then not only would I *think* differently, but I would *say* and *do* differently, as well.

And the only Power in the Universe that can change who I am is the Power of God through Jesus Christ, in true, genuine, biblical Salvation. And that means that if the American Culture is being destroyed, then the way, the *one way*, the *single way*, the *only way* we can hope to stop this destruction and restore the Culture is to fundamentally transform the human being from what he is now to what he *ought* to be. And then his thoughts and his words and his actions would also change.

And the summation of what would happen when millions of people are radically and fundamentally and thoroughly and eternally transformed by the Power of God through Jesus Christ in true Salvation is that that the Culture would *reflect* that transformation.

And that is why I tell you that if you really love your country, and if you are genuinely dismayed at what is going on all around us, and if you truly wish to see the Culture become pleasing to God, American people must be radically transformed. Because you *cannot* change the Culture without first changing what people say and do, and how they think. And you cannot change the way people talk and think and act until you change *them*. And you cannot change people *externally*. They must be changed *internally*.

And that means that the "Culture War" is not now and never has been a *political* battle. It isn't a *financial* battle, and it isn't a *racial* battle, it isn't a *gender* battle, and it isn't an *age* battle. You can't fix this with Education or Medicine or Technology or Government. This is a *spiritual* battle. And the battlefield is *not* in Washington DC. It isn't in the hall of Congress or in the Supreme Court or in the State Capitols or at City Hall. The battlefield is in the mind and in the heart of Men. And by using the word "Men", I'm not talking now about all of "Mankind". I'm talking now about actual Men. Males. I'm talking about Fathers and Sons and Brothers and Husbands and Uncles and Grandfathers.

You see, the Sovereign God of the Universe has called Men to struggle against the lusts of their flesh, by the Power of the Holy Spirit, to assume a *primary* "Servant-Leadership" Role in this Life. Men are called by God to lead. Men are called by God to stand up and to speak out. They are called to walk and to run, and to bring forth. They were *created* and *equipped*, and then *commanded* to build and to plant, to create, and to see to it that the Will of God is carried out.

About 1500 years before Jesus was born, the Spirit of God stirred up a young protégé of Moses to rise up and to stand up and to speak out against the compromise of *his* day. And the Bible says that Joshua was very strange. Moses was "moved along" by God the Holy Spirit to tell us that Joshua would not depart from the Tent of Worship, but dwelt *continually* near the Presence of God<sup>1</sup>. And so, it is no wonder that in **Joshua 24:15**, with very little Divine Truth to read and study, he said:

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 33:11

**If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**

This is what the Bible means when it talks about a Man, "ordering his Home". And it is his Divine mandate. So, unlike Women, Men are called by God to conquer and to dominate and to subdue and to rule. And Men are called and equipped, and then *commanded* by that very same God, to love and to teach and to lead and to worship.

The primary reason why God made Men to be "Husbands" and "Sons" and "Brothers" and "Fathers" was so they can take the dangerous and the hard and the difficult and the dominant positions in this life that will *allow* them to provide for and to protect their Wives and their Children (and others) at Home. All throughout History men have left their homes to fight in wars to basically do two things: Conquer new territory, and protect Women (our Mothers and Daughters and Wives and Sisters) from evil and bad Men.

And godly and qualified Men are also called and equipped and commanded to fight in "*spiritual wars*", as well. So, Men are told to stand in Leadership positions in the Church so that God's people may hear the Word of God, rightly divided, and be protected from damnable false teaching and destructive sinful behavior. And, when God wanted that done, He looked to Men.

So, winning the "Culture War" begins with individual Men. It begins with Men *recapturing* their God-given place. It begins with them, first, understanding *why* God made them to be "Male" in the first place, and then going about to live as though their "Maleness" is right and true and correct and proper and a glory to God.

You see, being a Man is *fundamentally* different from being a Woman. And this is what the Apostle Peter is telling us here in the first part of verse 7, when he said:

**You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman...**

Here Peter was “moved along” by God the Holy Spirit to give Husbands a *foundational* Principle to ponder about Women, in general, and their own Wives in particular:

Women (Wives) are “weaker” than Men (Husbands)

But, in *what way* is Peter telling us that Women/Wives are “weaker” than Men/Husbands? How are we to understand this? Well, our first hint is by looking at the actual Greek word that Peter chose to use as he originally wrote this verse down at some point near the latter part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. And the word Peter used means: *feeble; lacking physical ability*.

Now even though our English word “weak” or “weaker” is used about 47 times in the 66 Books of the Bible, **1 Peter 3:7** is the only time this *particular* Greek word was used in the entire New Testament. And from the definition of this Greek word, we can see that at least *part* of what Peter was trying to convey was that Women are generally not as strong as Men, *physically*.

But the *definition* of a word is only *part* of understanding it. One of the most important ways to understand what a biblical writer meant is by examining the *context* of how the word was used. And *before* Peter said that Women/Wives were “weaker” he said this:

**... live with *your wives* in an understanding way ...**

... or as the King James Version puts it:

**... dwell with them according to knowledge ...**

So, Peter is commanding believing Husbands to use “knowledge” and “understanding” when dealing with their Wives, *precisely because they are “weaker”*. But how is dealing with our wives in “an understanding way” related to *physical* weakness?

Now, since it is true that this Greek word has to do with *physical* weakness, then *maybe* Peter was teaching here that, because our Wives are *physically weaker* than we are, that godly Husbands are to live with them in such a way that we do all the “heavy lifting”? And that would mean that a correct *application* of this Commandment would be that

godly Husbands should carry out the trash, and not let our Wives move the furniture. Probably not. But how do we know that? Two ways:

1) Because the literal Greek says:

**... live with your weaker wives with understanding of their...**

2) Because Peter said there is a Divine Penalty if Husbands *don't* do this:

**... so that your prayers will not be hindered**

... so, even though the *definition* of the word has to do with a *physical* weakness, the *context* here is *not* on the Woman/Wife's *physical* weakness, but on the *weakness* of her "nature". And *this* Reality emphasizes something that is somehow very offensive to many people today:

Men and Women are *not* "Equal"

We are not the "same". Never have been; never will be. So, the revered goal of "Equality" between the sexes, that seems to dominate so much of our conversation, isn't true. And excluding perhaps how much money we pay Women to work, this "Equality" isn't even attainable. So, we *are not* Equal because we *cannot* be Equal. And nothing can ever change that. Men and Women are different. And what I think is fundamental to being biblical is for us to know that Men and Women are different *on purpose!*

In other words, God *purposefully* made us to be different. And that means that rather than seek to *minimize* or *eliminate* our differences, we should *emphasize* and *celebrate* them! Because those differences are *profound*, they are *fundamental*, and they are "self-evident".

So, the *distinctions* between Men and Women are *not* some "mistake" that needs to be "corrected". Our differences are *not* some "problem" that needs to be "solved". And that means that we should not be trying to change these distinctions through Science or Technology or Medicine or Governmental Legislation. And the reason we should not



seek to change the differences between Men and Women is because they aren't something of which we should be ashamed, they are *part* of *why* we worship God. And that means that the indisputable fact that Men and Women are *not* equal is a Reality that needs to be taught and learned and promoted and rejoiced over! God made us *uniquely* "Male" and "Female", on Purpose.

And this is simply another way of saying what I never thought would ever need to be said: God's Will is that Men are to be "Men" and Women are to be "Women". And the Roles that are inherent in being a Man or a Woman are "set in concrete" and unalterable. And that means that *deviation* from these Roles is sin.

But Peter is telling us here that a Woman's "nature" is *not* simply *different* from a Man's, but *weaker*. So, in *what way* is a Woman's *nature* "weaker" than a Man's? Is it because Women are *unable* to be saved? No. How do we know that? Because Peter said:

**... show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life ...**

... so, in this sense, Women and Men *are* "equal". The fact that Peter says that Women are "**fellow-heirs of the Grace of Life**" shows us that Women can be saved, and they can have full access to God and all of His Promises through Salvation *to the very same degree as a Man!* And to this the Apostle Paul agreed when he said:

### **Galatians 3:28&29**

**There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.**

You see, under the Old Covenant it *mattered* whether you were a Jew or a Gentile. It *mattered* whether you were a Man or a Woman. And it *mattered* whether you were a slave or a master. But *part* of what makes the New Covenant *infinitely* superior to the Old, to the degree that we are told that the Old Covenant is now "obsolete" and should be "*abandoned*"<sup>2</sup>, is that *in Jesus*, things like *ethnicity* and *nationality* and *education level* and *political connections* and *sexual*

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<sup>2</sup> Hebrews 6:1-8; Hebrews 8:13

*distinctions* and *status* in this life are all completely *irrelevant!* So, the very issues that were *paramount* under the Old Covenant are totally without *any* significance under the New. And that means that the very core issue, on which the Old Covenant “hung its hat”, the “*Jewishness* of the elect”, has been completely *eliminated*.

Okay, but if a Woman is a “fellow-heir of the Grace of life” and “*spiritually* equal” with a Man, how is her nature “weaker”? And as we seek to comprehend that, we also need to realize that the “honor” that Peter desires for Husbands to show their wives is shaped by the “knowledge” or the “understanding” that the Husband has of two Truths:

1. The Husband’s Understanding that his Wife is “weaker”
2. The Husband’s Understanding that his Wife is a “fellow-heir of the Grace of Life”

... and those two Truths must be kept *together*, one balancing the other. Because if the Husband emphasizes one Truth above the other, he will *not* “honor” his Wife, he will “warp” her. Emphasizing the Truth that she is a “fellow-heir” *above* the Truth of her “weakness” will allow for the Wife to be placed into positions in the Home and in the Church that she is *not* equipped to handle. And *everybody* will suffer for that, *including* the Wife. And emphasizing the Truth that she is “weaker” above the Truth than she is a “fellow-heir” will allow for the Wife to be crippled and hindered in what God has called her to do. O, how we need God to teach us!

One key that will help is for us to understand what Peter meant by using the phrase “someone weaker” to describe the Wife. Peter said:

**... live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman ...**

Now notice that Peter did *not* say that Women were “*weak*”, but that they are “*weaker*”. So, the way we should see this is *not* that Men are “strong” and Women are “weak”, but that Men are “weak” and Women are “*weaker*”. Both Men and Women are “weak” as it pertains to godliness. Men do *not* have an *easier* time in resisting Temptations

than Women do. Obedience does *not* come *easier* for Men than Women. That simply isn't true.

The Reality is that Men struggle against the lusts of their flesh, that delights in rebelling against God, *as much* or maybe even *more* than Women. Men need the Grace of God as much or more than Women do. Men need Forgiveness and Mercy when they fail as much or more than Women do. So, all human beings are "weak". The Man's "nature" has problems and weaknesses inherent in it that, while different from that of a Woman, are, nonetheless, very serious and very real. The Woman's "nature" has problems and weaknesses inherent in it that, while different from those of a Man, are, nonetheless, very serious and very real.

But the Man is called by God to fight against his sinful inclinations to *lead*, while the Woman is called by God to fight against her sinful inclinations to *support and help* the Man.

Now I want you to notice something very interesting about what Peter says here. Peter was "moved along" by God the Holy Spirit to say:

**... live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life**

So, the issue that would normally invite *domination* and *abuse* out in the lost unsaved world, the "weakness of the Wife", is the very issue that commands "Honor". The point of the greatest *vulnerability* for the Woman is the very *source* of her Honor. The fact that evil Men *can* take advantage of a Woman's weakness is the point that affords her the greatest degree of honor when godly Men do not.

Now another thing I want you to see. What does Peter teach here as the *reason* a Woman is "weaker" than a Man? Is it her upper body strength? No. Does Peter get into the fact that Women only have 2/3 the blood supply as a Man? Does Peter get into the fact that, back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, Women couldn't go to school and learn? No. Does the Apostle get into the fact that every 28 days most Women accumulate more sodium around their inner ear, and thus have a tendency to be dizzy, *especially* when flying a F-14 fighter jet at Mach 3 speed? No. So, to what does Peter attribute a Woman being weaker than a Man? He said:

... since she is a woman ...

So, Peter refers us back to the "Order of Creation" as to *why* a Woman is "weaker" than a Man. In other words, this "weaker" state is *precisely* because God created her as a Woman in the first place, and has *nothing* to do with any *external* situation, like unfair treatment by Society.

Now the *main* reason I am bringing all this up today is because this is the next verse in my verse-by-verse "journey" through **1 Peter**. But I am also speaking out because I honestly see this Issue as the seminal Issue of our day. I used to think that many years from now, if the Lord should tarry, that the Christians of the future would look back on us with great *bewilderment*, and they would ask us, "*How could the richest and freest nation in history, a nation that spoke the loudest about Jesus, systematically hack their unborn children to death?*" And they would ask those of us who might still be alive, "*What did you do when all this as going on?*" Because *that* was the Question that we asked the Christians of Germany in the last Century, "*What did you do when they were gassing the people?*"

But I now see Abortion as simply another *symptom* of a much larger Issue, the great confusion about what it means to be a Man and a Woman. In fact, I see almost all of the Social Ills of the modern American Culture, like:

- ✓ The exponential increase of illegitimate births
- ✓ The normalization of Sexual perversions
- ✓ The increase of Divorce
- ✓ The rise in abuse toward Women
- ✓ The horror that 6 out of 10 men in the Church routinely look at Pornography
- ✓ The rapid increase of single-mother Homes
- ✓ The rise in multiple Women having children from the same man

... I see all of these evils as *directly* linked to the same problem:

Men no longer know what it *means* to be a "Man", and  
Women no longer know what it *means* to be a "Woman".

Men today are either getting in touch with their "inner femininity", or they're trying to emulate Clint Eastwood. Women are either marching for the right to murder their baby, or they're emulating the Queen of England. But fewer and fewer people see that we are told what to do and what to believe and how to behave in the pages of sacred, infallible Writ. Many Church Leaders today are openly teaching that the many, many verses that *limit* the behavior of both Men and Women, and that *re-direct* our efforts to an almost forgotten way of life, are "*archaic*" and "*irrelevant*", and "*have no place in the Church of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*". And Inerrant Statements like the first seven verses of **1 Peter 3**, given by a Man chosen *personally* by the Lord Christ Himself, are seen as "*Apostolic Suggestions*" rather than "*Apostolic Commands*". The notion that by pulling the lever in the ballot box to elect a man into a position of power, that this will change the Culture, simply does not happen. And it *does not* happen, because it *cannot* happen.

And while I understand people, who are not saved and who do not read the Bible thinking this way, I cannot imagine *anyone* who is truly born again thinking like this.

During my lifetime, we have seen an appalling *acquiescence* on the part of the average Man, as he has freely and gladly *relinquished* more and more of his God-given Responsibility and Calling. Men today are *abandoning* their spiritual authority and their positions in the Home and in the Church in record numbers. A "spiritual lethargy" has gripped them, and they have become dull and unconcerned and listless. Give them some toys to play with and provide them with a little discretionary money, and more and more Husbands and Fathers are just "tuning out", and are perfectly content to idol their lives away while the world is on fire.

The result of Female Domination and Leadership in the Home and in the Church is clear, unarguable, and frightening. It is an unmitigated disaster. An entire generation of young boys are being systematically destroyed because Fathers either don't exist or don't lead. Every statistic says the same thing, from Crime to Behavior to Illegitimate Births to Abuse of Women to Abortion to Sexual Perversions, *nothing* works right when Men are sitting and silent.

And we can point our finger at "uppity Women" and condemn Feminism all day long. But Women usurping authority over Men is the *natural* and *normal* result of Men *not* assuming their God-given Role

and of Women filling that vacuum. And the fix, the *one* fix, the *single* fix, the *only* fix, is for Men to repent and obey God, with joy!

And I want to be crystal clear about this, it doesn't matter if the Husband is "happy" or "content" about *not* assuming this Role of Leadership, Protection, and Provision. God has called Men to lead, and so, if they *refuse* to lead, and are happy with that, then they are being content with rebellion. And that is a horrible place to be.

Men have told me that for them to lead is, "*Just not my style*" or that it, "*Goes against my nature*". Which is simply an attempt at justifying their refusal to obey their Master. I didn't write any of this, dear friends. This is the Word of the living God. And everything I know about God's Word tells me that being saved should make obedience to God the *best* and the *happiest* place on earth.

Dear friends, we simply will not see the change in our Culture, we will not win this Culture War, and we will not experience the Revival that we say that we want until we begin to love what God loves. And that will never happen until Men become godly, and those godly Men begin to lead.

But, for Men to be "Men", *real* Men, *godly* Men, they must first learn to love. In order for Men to be strong and vibrant and powerful and productive, they must first learn what it means to love. And in order to love correctly, Men must first learn how to love God. We simply *cannot* love *others* correctly until we learn how to love *God* correctly. But loving God is a Gift. So, God has to graciously grant us the Gift of Love for Himself. We can't "work this up", we can't "make this happen", we can't rub the two sticks of "human decision" and "will-power" together to *manufacture* a love for God. So, the first order of business is that men need to begin to cry out to God to grant them the gift of love. Listen to what the Prophet wrote about 750 years before Jesus was born:

### **Joel 2:11-19**

**The Lord utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the Lord is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it? Yet even now," declares the Lord, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning; And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in**

lovingkindness And relenting of evil. Who knows whether He will *not* turn and relent And leave a blessing behind Him, *Even* a grain offering and a drink offering For the Lord your God? Blow a trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly, Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom come out of his room And the bride out of her *bridal* chamber. Let the priests, the Lord's ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord, And do not make Your inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, 'Where is their God?'" Then the Lord will be zealous for His land And will have pity on His people. The Lord will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied *in full* with them; And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations.

Many well-meaning Ministries today are advocating protest marches and boycotts and letter-writing campaigns. They raise money for political campaigns and push for Supreme Court Judges. *Anything*, except what Joel says here. And so, they turn their heads and pretend not to see blatant sin, all in the name of "winning the Culture War" and of being on the "right side". But here, the man of God, who saw the wickedness and compromise of his day, promoted different things like:

- ✓ Fasting
- ✓ Prayer
- ✓ Repentance
- ✓ Mourning
- ✓ Weeping between the porch and the altar

... things that you seldom hear anymore. But these are the tools that will help God's people to return to God, which is what the *real* problem is. And who did Joel say would *lead* this great "returning" back to God?

**Let the priests, the Lord's ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord, And do not make Your inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations.**

The Apostle Paul also *rejected* the tactics of the modern church as it pertains to “recapturing the Culture”, when he said this in **2 Corinthians 10:4&5:**

**The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,**

But make no mistake about it, when Christian resort to carnal and natural and earthly and political tactics to try to bring about a Spiritual Awakening, we are doing two things:

1. We are testifying loud and clear that we really *don't* believe that the real problems of our nation are *spiritual*.
2. We are testifying loud and clear that we *disagree* with Paul, and we absolutely *do* believe that the weapons of the Church are “of the flesh”.

... but I don't think that either one of these are good. And I don't think either one of these will ever, in a million years, lead us to where we say we want to be. Spiritual problems *cannot* be fixed with natural and earthly and carnal and political weapons. You simply can't get there from here. The Bible says you can't. Only by us repenting and only by us praying and only by God's people striving to be obedient to what God has said can we hope to return to God. And only by God's people, returning to God, can we hope to see genuine Revival. And that will *only* happen when Men rise up and stand up and speak out and begin to lead again in their Homes and in the Church.

But it is just so much easier to go into a voting booth and pull a lever and put the sticker on my lapel, and then take great comfort that because I voted for the right guy we are going to see God move and restore our nation. It is all so very neat and tidy. I don't have to change the way I live. I don't have to concern myself with whether my prayers are being hindered, because I am not living with my wife in an understanding way, as someone who is weaker precisely because she is a Woman. I don't have to bother struggling against my fleshly lusts to humble myself to obey God's Word. I don't really have to do *anything*



personally, and bingo! Instant Revival! Instant Holiness! Instant transformation of the Culture!

But notice what Paul said in the very next verse:

### **2 Corinthians 10:7a**

**And we are ready to punish all disobedience...**

... well, "*Amen to that!*" This is *exactly* what we say we all want! The punishment of all disobedience in our land will lead us to a great and marvelous Revival where Biblical Holiness and Purity will *dominate*. So, *when* will God give us this Punishment of all Disobedience? When we have all three branches of Government? When we get strict Constitutionalsists on the Court? When political liberalism is finally defeated? No, Paul had another way. *When* will all disobedience be punished?

### **2 Corinthians 10:6b**

**... whenever your obedience is complete.**

What? "*What do you mean, 'my obedience'? What has my obedience got to do with seeing our Culture transformed? I mean, I just saw some of the most influential Ministers in America on TV talking about getting on our phones and bombarding Senators so they will vote correctly. We need to win this Culture War, Brother Blair, and so, we need to get busy and make sure that our side is winning.*" Yea, we do.

But the Holy Bible says that when God's people are obedient, *then* God will punish those who are disobedient. But that also means that if we are *not* obedient, then He won't.

I would suggest my friends, that what we believe and what we do and how we live our lives as *individuals*, whom God has set His Love upon, will not only transform our *Culture*, but it will transform the *world!* The single most effective way to prove to people that the miracle of the New Birth is the best thing that can ever happen to a person is to show the world a people who have actually *experienced* the miracle of the New Birth.

So, I am suggesting to you that when Men, as *individuals*, first see the value of what Peter is teaching here, and then as we begin to *yield* to what Peter is teaching here, that how we treat our Wives, *when*

*nobody else is watching*, has *more* to do with the transformation of the American Culture than anything else.

Because, God didn't call any of us to "transform the Culture". God called Husbands to honor their Wives as a "fellow-heir of the Grace of Life". God called Husbands to live with our Wives "in an understanding way", because she is *weaker* than we are, because she is a Woman.

*"O, come on, Brother Blair, what does this have to do with us transforming the Culture?"* Everything. Because, as Men change, the Word of God is honored. And when God is honored, hearts and minds and lives are changed. So, when Men change, Families change. And as Families change, Churches change. And as Churches change, Neighborhoods change. And as Neighborhoods change, entire Regions change. And as Regions change, the Culture changes. But *none* of that happens until and unless Men change.

Now I agree that this is infinitely *harder* and will take much *longer* than becoming politically active and voting for the right person. But Men being godly at home with their wives will also yield infinitely better results than becoming politically active and voting for the right person.

So, may God be good to us to raise up godly Men, who will return to God and love their Wives. Because, when Men like this pray, their prayers are not hindered.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.