

***“Focus On The Family!”***  
***1 Peter 3:1-7***

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning, We Are Going To Return To 1 Peter!
    - Remember Where We Have Been:
      - Peter Is Talking To Christians Who Are Suffering! And Explaining To Us That We Still Have Some Responsibilities While We Suffer!
      - And These Responsibilities Turn To Opportunities To Show & Share The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
    - 2:12 - “Having your conversation [lifestyle] honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation!”
      - God Wants Us To Be A Good Witness & Have A Good Testimony! An “Honest Conversation” / “Noble & Praise-Worthy Lifestyle!”
      - Goes On To Tell Us How - 2:13 - “Submit!”
    - Submission Is Key To The Christian Life! To Authority!
      - Your Submission To Authority Will Reflect Your Submission The Lord! Tests! 3 So Far / 1 More!
      - As A Subject – Submit To Your Government’s Authority!
      - As A Servant – Submit To Your Employer’s Authority!
      - As A Saint – Submit To Your Lord’s Authority!
        - And “Follow His Steps!” (2:21)
  2. This Morning – Another Test Of Your Submission:
    - Submission As A Spouse! This Is A Toughy!
      - Like The Name Of A Popular Organization - Today, We Are Going To “Focus On The Family!”
    - Read 3:1-7!
      - Submission To Authority Extends To The Family As Well!
      - And, Dealing With Both Wives & Husbands, The Lord – Through Peter – Explains What The Relationship Between Wives & Husbands Ought To Be!
        - Not Just Back Then! In That Time & Culture!
        - But Today! In This Time & Culture! In Your Family & In Mine!
      - Each Spouse Has Responsibilities!
        - That Are Opportunities To Show & Share The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Within Your Own Family!
  3. We Will See – The Home Is At The Heart Of The Gospel!
    - The Home Is Where The Gospel Is Best Learned!
    - The Home Is Where The Gospel Is Best Lived!
    - If Every Wife & Husband Would See That ***YOUR*** Home Is At The Heart Of The Gospel! What A Transformation Would Take Place!
    - In The New Testament:
      - We Have 4 Gospels! The Gospel According To Matthew / Mark / Luke / John! God Has Used & Continues To Use Them Powerfully In The Lives Of Millions Of People! But God Can Also Use The Gospel In Your Life To Change The Lives Of Others – Especially In Your Family!
        - First Thing Peter Points Us To:
1. ***The Gospel According To The Wife!***
    - If You Are A Wife, You Have Several Responsibilities In Your Relationship With Your Husband!
    - ***Responsibility Of Submission!***
      - 3:1-2 - “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; / While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear!”
      - First Responsibility For The Christian Wife:
        - Submission To Your Husband!
        - Same Word In 2:13 / 2:18! A Proper Recognition Of & Response To The Authority Of

Your Husband!

- Based On The God-Ordained Structure Of The Family From The First Married Couple Till Today!

- As With The Other Cases Of Submission - A Wife "Ought To Obey God Rather Than Men" – But In All Other Cases, A Wife Is To Submit To The Authority Of "Her Own" Husband! Peter Explains Why:

- There Is A Purpose For Submission!

- Peter First Deals With Probably The Most Difficult Situation: A Christian Wife With An Unbelieving Husband!

- Wives Were Expected To Follow The Religion Of Their Husbands! They Could Have Suffered By Becoming A Christian!

- The Husband May Ignore God's Word:

- But "Without A Word" - Your Husband Could Be Impacted Through Your Submission To Him! Even Be "Won"!

- There Is A Practice Of Submission!

- Not Just Any Kind Will Do!

- Submission In Actions!

- "Chaste Conversation" - Pure Lifestyle!

- Submission In Attitude!

- "Coupled With / In Fear!"

- A "Sincere Respect & Reverence" & Honor Just Because He Is Your Husband!

- What A Responsibility!

- But What An Opportunity!

**- Responsibility Of Spirituality!**

- 3:3-4 - "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; / But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price!"

- Another Way To Show The Gospel Is Through Your Priorities!

- A Spiritual Attraction!

- What Do You Think Makes You More Attractive?

- The Outside Or The Inside?

- Peter Says: Your Focus Should Be:

- "The Hidden Man Of The Heart!"

- A Spiritual Adornment!

- Your Husband / Family / Others Are Watching!

- To See What Your Priorities Really Are!

- "Adornment" - Kosmos - Cosmetics!

- Superficial Cosmetics:

- Ladies Have Always Been Fascinated With: Their Hair / Jewelry / Clothes!

- The Lord Says: Don't Make That Your Focus! This Is A "Warning Against Extravagance And Self-Centered Display!" (Hiebert)

- Spiritual Cosmetics:

- That Which Is "Incorruptible" - Won't Wash Off / Out!

- A "Meek & Quiet Spirit!"

- A Christ-Like Spirit! Matthew 11:29 - "I am meek and lowly in heart!"

- A Spiritual Approval!

- You May Not Receive The Approval You Are Wanting / Desiring / Even Needing From Your Husband!

- But, You Will Receive The Approval Of God!

- "Which Is In The Sight Of God Of Great Price / Value!"

- What A Responsibility! What An Opportunity!

**- Responsibility Of Service!**

- 3:5-6 - "For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: / Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling

- him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement!”
- To Encourage You Wives, Peter Gives Some Examples! You Are Not Alone! You Still Have The Responsibility / Opportunity To Serve!
  - Service For The Lord!
    - These Women Were “Holy Women!”
      - Set Apart For The Lord & His Service!
    - Submission Was Part Of Their Service For The Lord! And Was Part Of Their Holy Life!
  - Service For Others!
    - These Women Were Hopeful Women!
      - They “Trusted In God!”
      - And Became Examples To Every Christian Woman & Wife!
    - You Can Be An Example As Well!
  - Service For Your Husband!
    - These Women Were Humble Women!
    - Specific Example Of The Attitude Of One OT Woman Toward Her Husband:
      - Sarah! Genesis 18:12 - When Sara Overheard She Was Going To Have A Baby In Her Old Age - “Sarah Laughed Within Herself, Saying, After I Am Waxed Old Shall I Have Pleasure, My Lord Being Old Also?”
      - Sara Had A Real, Deep-Seated Respect, Reverence, Love & Loyalty For Her Husband, Abraham!
    - And When You Serve In This Way:
      - Both Your Conduct & Conscience Will Be Clear!
  - Wives – Do You Display The Gospel In Your Relationship With Your Husband? Today? Every Day?
    - Through Your Submission / Spirituality / Service?
    - Your Home Is At The Heart Of The Gospel!
    - But What About You Husbands?

## 2. ***The Gospel According To The Husband!***

- If You Are A Christian Husband, You Too Have Several Responsibilities Toward Your Wife!
  - 3:7 - “Likewise, Ye Husbands!”
    - Not The Same Responsibility As Your Wife In The Area Of Submission - But In Being A “Good & Godly” Husband!
      - Even Though Peter Only Gives Us 1 Verse, I Believe The Husband Here Has The Greatest Responsibility! Because You Can Make Your Wife’s Submission Be Easy And A Delight For Her! And You Will, If You Show The Gospel In Your Life To Her!
- ***Responsibility To Live For Your Wife!***
  - 3:7a - “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge!”
    - The First Part Of Verse 7 Deals With Your Personal Relationship With Your Wife!
      - Some Translations Say: “Be Considerate” - But This Verse Is Saying So Much More Than Just “Be Considerate” In Your Relationship!
  - A Relationship Of Time!
    - “Dwell With Them!”
    - Husbands: You Are Not Just To “Be There” For Your Wife – You Are To Be There ***WITH*** Your Wife!
    - You Have A Responsibility To Give Your Wife Your Time!
      - In Priority, Over & Above Any Other Earthly Relationship!
    - Genesis 2:24 - “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh!”
  - A Relationship Of Thought!
    - “According To Knowledge!”
    - You Need To ***Know*** Your Role / Responsibilities!
    - You Need To ***Know*** The Word Of God!
    - You Need To ***Know*** Your Wife!

- You Need To **Learn** About Your Wife!
- This Is A Life-Long Journey!
- You Need To Know Your: “Wife’s Desires, Goals, And Frustrations; Knowledge Of her Strengths And Weaknesses In The Physical, Emotional, And Spiritual Realms!”  
(Grudem)
- How Much Time Do You Spend With Your Wife?
  - How Well Do You Know Your Wife?
- What A Responsibility / Opportunity!
  - To Let The Gospel Shine Through Your Life!
- **Responsibility To Love Your Wife!**
  - 3:7b - “Giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life!”
    - Deals With Your Personal Responsibilities As A Husband - To Love / Care For Your Wife! Why?
  - Your Wife Is Your Prize!
    - “As Unto The Weaker Vessel!”
      - In General Terms, A Woman Is Not As Strong As A Man! But, As John Lillie Once Wrote: “It Is No Insult — To The Rose To Say, That It Is Weaker Than The Bush That Bears It! The Strongest Things Are Not Always Therefore The Best – Either The Most Beautiful Or The Most Useful!
    - Your Responsibility Is To Honor & Value Your Wife As The Most Prized & Fragile Possession That You Have!
      - Because She Is!
  - Your Wife Is Your Partner!
    - “As Being Heirs Together Of The Grace Of Life!”
    - If Your Wife Is A Christian:
      - You Have A Double Blessing!
      - Proverbs 18:22 - “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD!”
  - Do You Actively Honor Your Wife?
    - In Public? In Private? Do You Praise Your Wife? (Proverbs 31:28 - Virtuous Woman
    - “Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her!”)
    - If Your Wife Is Not A “Virtuous Woman” - Did You Know That She Is Following Your Lead?
  - Do You Passionately Love Your Wife?
    - Colossians 3:19 - “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them!”
    - Ephesians 5:25 - “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it!”
  - What A Responsibility / Opportunity!
- **Responsibility To Lead Your Wife!**
  - 3:7c - “That your prayers be not hindered!”
    - If You Are A Husband - You Are To Be The Primary Spiritual Leader In Your Home!
      - And Part Of This Is Your Prayer Life!
    - But, If You Are Not Right With Your Wife:
      - You Cannot Be Right With God!
  - This Is A Great Responsibility / Opportunity!
- Husbands – Do You Display The Gospel In Your Relationship With Your Wife? Today? Every Day?
  - By Living For / Loving / Leading Your Wife?

**Conclusion:**

1. Your Home Is At The Heart Of The Gospel!
  - The Best Place To Learn About The Gospel!
  - The Best Place To Live Out The Gospel!
2. Is The Gospel At The Heart Of Your Home?
  - Wives – Do You Show The Gospel To Your Husband?

- Husbands – Do You Show The Gospel To Your Wife?
  - It Is A Great Responsibility!
  - But It Is Also A Great Opportunity!
3. We All Need To Focus On Our Family!

***Grace Baptist Church  
Stephen Elmer, Pastor  
4245 North 200 West  
Greenfield, Indiana 46140  
317-326-2362  
[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)  
[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)  
[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)***