

Life Group Discussion Guide

1 Peter: Exiles in Our Land

Week 7: Submission and Kindness in Marriage • 1 Peter 3:1-7

Read **1 Peter 3:1-7** together. Focus on recurring themes, words, and phrases. As you reflect on this passage and Pastor Jon's message, what are your initial impressions or takeaways? What stood out to you most?

The Goodness of Submission

1 Peter 3:1 Submission has become a buzzword in today's society. It triggers deep, emotional reactions of all kinds. God's Word did not make a mistake in using this word, however.

- Read through the following passages regarding submission and discuss how it is portrayed in these situations:
 - Luke 2:51
 - Romans 13:1
 - James 4:7
 - Ephesians 5:24
 - 1 Corinthians 16:16
 - 1 Peter 5:5
 - Ephesians 5:21
- Scripture shows us that submission is not only for a married woman, but for all members of the church body. How does this help explain the submission of the wife in her marriage?
- Submission vs. Subjugation– what is the difference?
- For those who are married, what was your understanding of submission prior to marriage? Do you feel confident in your understanding of submission now? Why or why not?

The Strength of a Submissive Wife

1 Peter 3:1-6 According to Pastor Jon, a submissive wife displays strength in three distinct ways. Discuss these areas and contrast them with the ways the world says a wife is strong.

- She's saturated in the gospel
 - What role does submission play in the gospel message?
 - How does knowing the gospel strengthen the wife's ability to submit?
 - In Peter's day, the idea of submitting was radical to their culture, much like it is a radical message to our culture today. This fits right in line with the rest of God's Word that calls us to holiness though; read back to 1 Peter 1:15-16 and see God's standard for all His children. With this in mind, how should wives view their calling to submission?

- She's a world-shaper
 - For the women in this group, list the people currently in your life that you have regular contact with. Do they listen to your opinion and feedback?
 - For everyone in this room, list some of the women in your life that have impacted your life in some way.
 - Women embody their Creator through their ability to influence, whether it's through nurturing, advising, teaching, helping, listening. Women being social is a gift and one that can be used greatly for God's kingdom. What kind of impact would a gospel-saturated wife have in her marriage?
- She displays true beauty
 - Outward beauty is not unique to the 21st century; Peter's call to refrain from only focusing on appearance is as much applicable to us now as it was then. Even so, how has technology ramped up the pressures for women to be distracted by their appearance? How has it impacted men?
 - True beauty lies within a wife's inner character– what does this mean?
 - Gentleness is the opposite of what society says a woman should possess. Why is gentleness actually a strength? How was the gentleness of Jesus one of His greatest strengths?

The Strength of a Kind Husband

1 Peter 3:7 Peter's two instructions given to husbands here are to be considerate and treat their wives with respect. Though few in words, the message packs a punch.

- What does it mean to be considerate here? (*Hint: Pastor Jon gave us the Greek translation*)
- Husbands are called here to replace tradition, culture, legacy, habit, and temperament with something much stronger: the knowledge of a suffering, sacrificial savior. Discuss how this practically shapes the way a husband leads and loves his wife in daily life.
 - What atmosphere will the home have when a husband demonstrates consideration and respect?
 - What impact will this have on his wife? Children? Church?
- How is it possible for a husband to actually replace his tradition/culture/habits? What does he need to put in place of those things?
- Treating the wife with respect *as the weaker partner* requires humility and sacrifice. Read the following passages and discuss how Jesus treated His weak disciples:
 - Matthew 9:6; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34
 - Luke 7:12-15
 - John 11:33-36; 13:35
- As a group, pray for each other's marriages and ones within your own family that they would be saturated in truth and display to the world how marriage is supposed to be. Committing to a biblical marriage is a powerful testimony that reflects the true love of Christ to a lost world.

