

## Class 3 - Introduction & Comments

### Working Relationships

The servant-master relationship was touched on in 2:18-20. Their working situation was used to introduce the specific example of Jesus when he was insulted and buffeted for no reason other than his taking a stand for God (2:21-23).

Thus “*For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.*” is a statement of behavior [good or sinful] and the corresponding outcome as measured by God's way. Note that the behavior of the master [gentle or unjust/overbearing] is not a factor in determining how the servant must behave.

**Likewise**, the wife-husband relationship (3:1-7) discusses the obligation of the wife [that does not depend how the husband behaves] and the obligation of the husband [that does not depend how the wife behaves]. This way of submission is exactly the same principle as Paul taught in Eph 5: 21-33. In that passage, both husband and wife submit to each based on the command and example of Christ [not on the behavior or worth of the recipient].

- The man is to love his wife “*as Christ loved the church*” because that is Jesus' command; should the wife appear to be unlovable is not a determining factor.
- The woman is to respect her husband because that is what Jesus commanded; should the husband seem unworthy of respect is not a determining factor.

Finally, all of the brethren are brought to the discussion (3:8-12). v. 9 ties directly back to the illustration and example of Jesus in 2:21-24. v. 10-12 cites Ps 34:12-16, an OT passage that lays out *the requirements* for “*loving life and seeing good days*”. Failure to comply with these demands makes God your enemy.

### Real-life Situations

Peter address three immediate matters facing the brethren. To be prepared, they must have the zeal and mindset described in 3:13-15. The three scenarios are:

- v. 15 always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope in you; {do it with gentleness & respect cf. 2Tim 2:23-26}
- v.16-17 what to do when you are reviled for your good behavior {tie to 2:23!}
- v. 18-22 understanding the significance of baptism {cf. Tit 3:3-7, Rom 6:3-11}.

### Bible Text - Chapter 3

**1** Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word 2:8, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, **2** when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

**3** Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— **4** but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable 1:23 beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

**5** For this is how the holy women who hoped 1:21, v.15 in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, **6** as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good 2:20,v.10 and do not fear anything that is frightening.

**7** Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

**8** Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

**9** Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

**10** For

*"Whoever desires to love life and see good v.6, v.11 days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;*

*11 let him turn away from evil and do good v.10, v.13; let him seek peace and pursue it.*

*12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (Ps 34:12-16)*

**13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good v.11, v.16?

**14a** But even if you should suffer 2:20, v.17 for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.

**14b** Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope v.5 that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good v.13, v.17 conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile 2:23 your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

**17** For it is better to suffer v.14, 4:15 for doing good v.16, v.21, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

**18** For Christ also suffered 2:23, 4:1 once for sins 2:24, 4:8 the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, **19** in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, **20** because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

**21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good v.17, 4:10 conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

## Your Study and Action Notes

1. What do the following words, terms or phrases mean? Write in your answers:

- imperishable (v. 4) —
- quiet spirit (v. 4) —
- showing honor (v. 7) —
- weaker vessel (v. 7) —
- gentleness and respect ( v. 15) —
- spirits in prison (v. 19) —
- good conscience (v. 21) —

2. What *encouraging* verse or passage would you like to discuss? \_\_\_\_\_  
Points you would like to make:

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3. What *confusing* verse or passage would you like to discuss? \_\_\_\_\_  
Questions you would like to ask:

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4. What *new information* did you encounter and *what might you do* about its teaching?