

TAKEAWAY

How to Live Right Now

Part Six: 1 Peter 3:1-7

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- To see that this passage has a positive message for women (and men!)
- To be encouraged to press on in representing Jesus in your closest relationships.

SHARE

How easy do you find it to be a representative of Jesus with the people you love the most? What do you think you do well, and what do you think you do badly?

READ

1 Peter 3:1-7

DISCUSS

Taking the passage as a whole – what do you think Peter wants to happen? What is his hope for society?

In your own words, what does Peter say 1) to women, 2) to men, and 3) to everyone in this passage?

If 'submission' to another person is a *choice* (rather than demand), what does it look like to healthily do so in practice (whether in a marriage or another relationship)? What might get in the way? What might motivate us to do it?

What encouragement is here for those who want to represent Jesus in their close relationships? (This doesn't only have to apply to marriages).

TRY OUT

This week, consider where in your closest relationships you could submit your own preferences for the sake of the other person. It could be in something big or something small. What opportunities do you have? Do you take them?

PRAY

Pray for God's help in representing Jesus in all our relationships, submitting to others and that we would offer Him our all. You may find it helpful to play a song that helps you pray and reflect on the theme of 'living for God' and focus on submitting to him.

More Like Jesus – One Voice Worship

youtu.be/XaZC2wN18P8?si=uJFeEM9BpoYAjXEM

Trust You – Aaron Keyes

youtu.be/eqg5EivNkmw?si=Ey76ggPx0XyBtHl6

Living for Your Glory - Tim Hughes

EXPLAIN

This passage is tricky! On the surface it could seem like it is designed to 'squash' women. However noting a few things could be helpful in understanding it:

– 'Submission' is a choice – not to be controlled, but to submit your own agenda out of love. Using this passage to advocate male superiority is a very poor use of scripture.

– In context, Peter is particularly mindful of Christian women with husbands who are not Christians. The fact that these women had a different set of beliefs to their husbands tells us they were not being oppressed, according to 1st Century norms.

– Peter cites the Genesis story of Abraham and Sarah. She calls him 'lord', which was a way of communicating respect (Abraham was an influential and wealthy man who would have been called 'lord' by many people). The point is: even through tricky times, Sarah was clearly committed to her husband.

– Peter calls women 'weaker' partners. This was not just about the fact that men tend to be physically stronger, but that women had much more limited legal rights - and yet men were called to treat them as equivalents.

– At the time, the message that men and women were co-heirs (i.e., equals) was both new and radical. The passage actually communicates a 'high' value on women, which was very unusual.