

Session 4: Some Important Truths...and Some Imparted Wisdom from Peter!

Is the Bible a prejudicial, biased book?

- *A chosen people and nation....other nations were annihilated!*
- *In the ancient world, the privileges were with man (male)...and the obligations were with the woman (female).*
- *Slaves and Masters....obligations for each, but no report against having slaves.*
- *Women with no rights....and man with the rights to the woman!*
- *Male's inheritance vs. Female's inheritance within the family.*

Why would you call a book "sacred" if there were prejudicial overtones?

Should the Christian adhere to cultural changes and modern trends of dress and amusements? Why?

Haven't you heard,

"When in Rome, do as the Romans do! "

Will they listen to us if we don't befriend and adjust our culture and ways to theirs?

All of the above questions and concerns are typical of the "world" and "worldly Christians!" The world according to Peter:

1 Peter 3:1-2, *"Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives."*

Peter's advice is 6 times longer for wives than for husbands.

Why? The wife's position was far more difficult than the husband.

If the husband accepted Christianity and was saved....No problem. He would just bring his wife into the church.

But...let the woman accept Christianity and go over the man's head...this was a problem!

In every sphere of civilization, women had no rights at all!

- *Under Jewish law a woman was a thing; she was owned by her husband in exactly the same way as he owned his sheep; she could not leave him, although he could leave or dismiss her at any moment. For a wife to change her religion while her husband did not was unthinkable.*
- *In Greek civilization the duty of the woman was "to remain indoors and to be obedient to her husband." It was the sign of a good woman that she must see as little, hear as little and ask as little as possible. She had no kind of independent existence and no kind of mind of her own.*

- Under Roman law a woman had no rights. In law she remained forever a child. When she was under her father she was under her father's power, which gave the father the right even of life or death over her...and when she married she remained under the husband's power. She was entirely subject to her husband and completely at his mercy. Catch her in adultery...he could kill her. She was prohibited from drinking wine....Wives dismissed for not wearing a veil in public.

Peter's advice to the wife....

First what he did not advise....

- Don't leave the husband. Exactly the same attitude as Paul takes in 1 Corinthians 7:13-16.
- Don't preach to him or argue.

He tells her this simple advice:

- Be a good wife....silent preaching of loveliness or her life to win the husband over to her new found happiness in the Lord.
- Be submissive....voluntary selflessness....the death of pride and a willingness to serve. Submission not of fear but of perfect love.
- Be pure...chastity and fidelity founded on love.
- Be reverent....living in the conviction that the whole world is the Temple of God and that all life is lived in the presence of Christ.

1 Peter 3:3-6, "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear."

How to dress as a Christian woman...

One not to be seen...but showing modesty and self-respect.

One of the ancient philosophers wrote, "At the age of 14, men called the females 'ladies' and expected them to act as such. Since the 'ladies' had no reason to live other than to be in submission to their husbands, they did what they could to make themselves as "wanted" as possible."

Peter simply turned the thought of being "wanted" by the husband to "needed" as he advised them to yield to their husband by showing modesty and self-respect in every way.

By so doing, the husband would see their complete surrender to his will and would desire the attitude of their wives.

Goodness and faithfulness will win the hearts of those that are seeking and searching for truth.

Isaiah 3:18-24 speaks of those various things of female adornment that will not escape the Day of Judgment...and destruction. Things that we worship will not

be judged; but we will be judged for the things we hold and cling to. Luxuries and worldly things will be destroyed....We should be careful that our souls are not destroyed with them.

Christianity came into the world of luxury and decadence.

Peter pleads for the graces which adorn the heart...and are precious in the sight of God.

Adorned with the same graces of modesty, humility and chastity that will identify the faithful woman of God.

The Husband's Obligation:

1 Peter 3:7, "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

This is the reciprocal ethic. It never places all the responsibility on one side.

Remember...Peter and Paul has already talked about:

Duties of slaves...and the obligations of masters.

Duties of children...and the obligation of parents (Paul: Ephesians 6:1-9).

Duties of wives...and obligations of husbands.

A marriage should be based on reciprocal obligation.

A marriage which all the privileges are on one side and all the obligations on the other is bound to be imperfect with every chance of failure.

The Christian ethic never grants a privilege without a corresponding obligation.

What are the obligations of the husband?

1. **Must be understanding**.....considerate and sensitive of the feelings of the wife.
2. **Must be chivalrous**.....remember that the women are the weaker sex and treat them with courtesy. The ancient world had the man riding on the donkey and the woman walking by the side. Peter is saying.... "Don't do that!" Gerald says, "Don't do that!" (In today's world, the wife would shoot the husband and put his lifeless body on the donkey and send it into the desert...just kidding...not suggesting!!)
3. **Remember that the wife has equal spiritual rights.** Peter says that she is a fellow-heir of the grace of life.

The worship of the Greeks, the Romans, and in the Jewish Synagogues had no woman participating in the services. When they were admitted into the synagogue, they were separated from the men.

*Christianity freed the woman from the shackles of servitude...and had them to serve the same Risen Savior in the same place.
Equal spiritual rights?*

4. A barrier will be placed between the husband and God if the husband fails in his obligations to his wife.

How? "The sighs and petitions of the injured wife come between the husband's prayers and God's hearing."

God sees and hears everything....but will not respond to an unfaithful, uncaring, selfish husband that mistreats his wife.

Wives...Did the teacher do a good job of explaining this truth? Now you know why I have been married to the same sweet lady (sweetheart) for 54 years.