

The First Letter of St. Peter  
Chapter 3

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Wives and Husbands – 3:1-7

- 1 – “Likewise” – Jesus is the model for the submissive life, so we, as his disciples, should put that in practice in our relationship with others.
- The heart of all relationships is the home.
- “Submit”: “voluntary yielding in love.” (Eph 5:21-22) The wife, who is already submissive to Christ, can win over her unbelieving husband by her actions.
- Husbands are to love their wives, “the way Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her.” (Eph 5)

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Wives and Husbands – 3:1-7

- 3 – The believing wife should demonstrate their inner beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, rather than rely on outward beauty of jewelry and fine clothes.
- 5 – For example: Sarah. She demonstrated her faith in God in the way she deferred to her husband.
- 7 – Husbands, in turn, are to treat their wives as something precious.
- The concept of “weaker vessel” is not a put-down, but rather emphasizes the role of the husband as the protector of someone who is precious to them.

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Suffering for Doing Good – 3:8-22

- 8 – “Finally” – a summary verse going back to 2:13. He calls on the whole Christian community to “live in harmony with one another with brotherly love and compassion.”
- 9 – In Christ’s kingdom, everything is reversed: The King dies; Death has been transformed to life; the last is first; the least are the greatest. So believers are called to do what the world would never do: answer cursing with a blessing. We are blessed people who bless others.

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Suffering for Doing Good – 3:8-22

- 10 – 12: A quote of Ps. 34:12-16, written when David was fleeing Saul, thus applicable to ones who suffer because of their faithfulness to Christ.
- 13 – Suffering for righteousness is a recurring theme in Peter’s letter. Suffering for doing right is still a blessing.
- 15 – Witnessing to our faith always starts with the heart. With our focus on Jesus, witnessing is nothing more than telling people what is in your heart.

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Suffering for Doing Good – 3:8-22

- 16 – A ready defense is the product of a good conscience which is given in Baptism.
- 17 – A simple truth: In life we may suffer persecution, but we do so, not because we have done evil, but because we have done good.
- 18 - Another simple truth: Christ died for sins, once for all, to bring you to God. The death and resurrection of Christ are applied to the sinner at Baptism.

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Suffering for Doing Good – 3:8-22

- 19-20 – These verses form a bridge from Peter’s statement of Christ’s death to our baptism, which bring us the benefits of that death.
- The descent into Hell, stated in the Creed, is based on this one passage.
- Here is what we can say: Sometime after his death, and presumably before his physical resurrection, Jesus, alive in the spirit, appeared to those in hell, not to evangelize, but to proclaim his victory.

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Suffering for Doing Good – 3:8-22

- 21 – And the water that saved Noah is analogous to the water of baptism. Just as water saved Noah and his family, so the water of baptism saves us. It connects us to God’s grace.
- Rom. 6:4: Baptism saves us, “through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
- 22 - This Jesus has ascended into heaven and has taken his seat of authority at the right hand of God the Father, and all heaven and earth is subject to Him.

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