

# 1 Peter 3

## 1 Peter 3.1-6 - Wives with unbelieving husbands

### V1 – How would this apply to persecuted Christians?

-What is the best way for a Christian wife to try to convert her husband? Without a word - most husbands do not respond to nagging and debating, etc.

*Proverbs 25.24 It is better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.*

### V2 – What kind of behavior? Chaste and respectful

-Respectful to whom? God and their husbands

### V3 – What kind of appearance is not needed? Merely external, braided hair, gold jewelry, expensive dresses

-In the First Century, rich women wore elaborate hair styles, sometimes with hair as much as a foot above their heads ("bee-hive" hair-do in the 1960's, etc.)

### V4 – What is the proper way to dress? With a gentle and quiet spirit

### V5 – How did holy women of the Old Testament behave? In this way (v 4)

-Example? Ruth, Hannah, Esther

### V6 – Peter's example? Sarah showed respect for Abraham

-Explain v 6b? Do not live in terror of non-Christian husband - he must **not** be allowed to interfere with his wife's worship to God

*1 Corinthians 7.15 - Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.*

-Paul and Peter had the same message to wives with unbelieving husbands: God is to come first in the lives of the wives

-They are not to be afraid of their husbands

-They can refuse to obey their husband when it comes to the Christian faith

-But in other situations, the wife is to be in subjection to her husband

## 1 Peter 3.7

### V7a – Peter's instructions to the husband? Be understanding about his wife

-Why? Because she is the weaker vessel

-In what sense is a wife weaker than her husband? Physically

-Many people today pretend that men and women can do the same jobs: police officers, fire fighters, soldiers, etc. – that is not fair

-Women generally are weaker than men in physical tasks

-Golf courses: women tee-off (different from men)

-Usually in road work, the women hold the stop signs, while the men dig the ditches

**V 7b – How should the husband treat his wife?** Fellow heir of the grace of life  
-**Why be kind to one's wife?** So that one's prayers will not be hindered

## **1 Peter 3.8-12**

**V 8** – A good summary of our relationship to one another

**V 9 – Attitude toward insults?** Do not return insult for insult, but give a blessing instead of a curse  
-Can you imagine how many marriages would be saved by this policy? Most arguments would end immediately

**V 10-11** – Quote of *Psalm 34.12-16*

- For a long life, what comes first?** Controlling the tongue
- Next?** Turning away from evil and seeking peace

**V 12** – God's watching us at all times, to reward the good and punish the evil

## **1 Peter 3.13-17**

**V 13** – No eternal harm will come to us if we live righteous lives

**V 14 – The Christian's attitude toward persecution?** A blessing  
-A quote from *Isaiah 8.12* – Do not be intimidated by those who persecute us

**V 15** – A very interesting verse

- Peter's instructions?** To be ready to give an answer
- Are we always to give an answer?** No
- Did Jesus Christ ever refuse to give an answer?** Yes

*Luke 23.8 - Now Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus: for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him. And he questioned Him at some length; but he answered him nothing.*

*Amos 5.12-13 - For I know your transgressions are many and your sins are great, you who distress the righteous and accept bribes, and turn aside the poor in the gate. Therefore, at such a time the prudent person keeps silent, for it is an evil time.*

- When we do answer, what is to be our attitude?** Gentleness with reverence

**V 16** – **Why should we live a good life?** So that those who persecute us will be ashamed of themselves

**V 17** – **If God has a choice about our suffering, what kind of suffering does he prefer?** That we suffer for doing what is right

## **1 Peter 3.18-22**

**V 18** – **How is Christ our example for suffering?** The just suffered for the unjust

**V 18b** – He put to death the fleshly way of life and instituted the spiritual way of life

**V 19** – Peter does not say Christ preached to spirits while they were in prison, but that the spirits are now in prison

**V 20** – **When were they preached to?** In the days of Noah

**-How did Christ preach to people in the day of Noah?** Through Noah

**-Is Noah ever considered a preacher?**

*2 Peter 2.5 - And did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.*

**-They had the option to obey the gospel for their generation**

**-They refused and are now in “prison”**

**-Who were the eight persons saved?** Noah, wife, three sons, and their wives

**V 21** – **Corresponding to what?** The salvation of eight people by means of the ark

**-What corresponds to that ark?** Baptism

**-Many denominational churches teach that they were saved by the water, in that it cleansed the earth**

**-But not so - they were saved by the ark riding on top of the water (this does not allow people to disregard water baptism, as some contend)**

**-Is baptism just getting wet?** No, it is more than taking a bath, but it is the cleansing of the conscience

**-Is baptism necessary for salvation?** Answer: **Was the ark necessary for saving for eight souls?**

**-How is baptism based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ?**

*Romans 6.3-5- Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection...*

**V 22** – All has been brought into subjection to Jesus Christ (remember *Matthew 28.18-20*)

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