

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ CONTINUE OUR STUDY ~ OF THE PRECEPTS FOR RELATIONSHIPS ~ ¶¶

▶▶that Paul lays out for us ~ in Col. 3:18 - 4:1.

▶▶And as everyone, ~ I think, ~ is aware ~ we've been jumping back and forth ~ with Ephesians. ⇔⇔ Fuller treatment.

TO SPEED, ~ LET'S BRIEFLY GO OVER ~ THE MAIN POINTS ~ WE'VE STUDIED SO FAR.

▶▶Believers in general. ⇔⇔ Submit

▷▷Submitting to one another means ~ having a mindset ~ of being ~ meek, ~ gentle, ~ and humble ~ toward one another.

▷▷It consists ~ of a willingness to respect and honor ~ the needs of other believers ~ even giving them precedence ~ over our own needs.

▷▷It also involves ~ a willingness ~ to serve, ~ to learn from, ~ and ~ to be corrected ~ by any other believer.

▶▶Wife/husband.

▷▷The Christian wife ~ is called upon ~ to ~ voluntarily ~ recognize, ~ accept, ~ respect, ~ and yield to, ~ ¶¶

↳↳the ~ God-given ~ authority and leadership ~ of her husband. ¶¶ 1/15

▶▶Husband/wife.

▷▷Christian husbands ~ do not have ~ complete freedom ~ to act as they ~ wish ~ or ~ think best.

↳↳On the contrary, ~ we husbands ~ are commanded ~ to exercise ~ our authority and leadership ~ within the parameters ~ that God has set up.

▷▷The God-given authority and leadership ~ that a Christian husband ~ rightly exhibits in marriage ~ ¶¶

↳↳is ~ not ~ to be carried out ~ harshly or selfishly, ~ but ~ lovingly, ~ tenderly, ~ and graciously.

→→And it is not ~ to be exercised ~ in a domineering manner.

▷▷When we boil it all down, ~ the command alone, ~ actually says it all.

↳↳Christian husband, ~ love your wife, ~ just as Jesus ~ loved the church. ~ He ~ gave up his life ~ for her. ⇔⇔ Up to speed on main points.

THE SUNDAY WE BEGAN TO LOOK AT THESE PRECEPTS, ~ MEG ASKED ME A QUESTION.

▶▶Got me thinking

▷▷So, ~ today ~ stay on the theme ~ of precepts for wives and husbands.

1 PETER. ~ 3: ~ 1-4, ~ & ~ 7.

PETER CENTERS HIS ATTENTION ~ ON ~ FOUR ~ PRECEPTS. ¶¶ 2/15

▶▶ Two ~ for Christian wives. ⇨⇨ And two ~ for Christian husbands.

▷▷ Following Peter's layout, ~ we'll look at the precepts for wives ~ first.

THE FIRST PRECEPT ~ SHOULD SOUND QUITE FAMILIAR.

1 PETER ~ 3: ~ 1a.

▶▶ Peter calls on the Christian wife, ~ to submit to her husband.

SINCE WE'VE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED THIS, ~ I'LL JUST SAY A COUPLE OF THINGS ~ in review.

▶▶ 1st. ~ like Paul, ~ Peter ~ is basically ~ calling each Christian wife ~ to voluntarily ~ recognize, ~ accept, ~ and yield ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to ~ the God-given ~ authority and leadership ~ of her husband.

▶▶ 2nd, ~ here in our review, ~ & this bears repeating ~ because it's so extremely important.

▷▷ A Christian wife's submission to her husband ~ is restricted as to degree. ⇨⇨ 3 ways.

↳↳ 1st, ~ if a husband ~ demands ~ that his wife do something ~ ¶¶

→→ that would cause her to violate God's word, ~ she is to obey God.

↳↳ 2nd, ~ submission does not mean ~ that the wife ~ has to endorse ~ her husband's foolish decisions, ~ or ~ ¶¶

→→ to show unquestioned acceptance ~ of everything ~ her husband does. ¶¶ 3/15

↪↪ And 3rd, ~ nowhere ~ does Paul suggest ~ that ~ submission of a wife to her husband ~ ¶¶

→→requires the wife ~ to be silent ~ in the face of abuse, ~ physical or otherwise.

→→Abuse ~ requires ~ outside help.

→→And no wife ~ should ever imagine ~ that ~ resisting abuse ~ violates ~ Paul's command.

THEN IN 1 PETER ~ 3: ~ 1b-2, ~ PETER EXPANDS ON THE COMMAND TO WIVES.

HE TURNS ~ TO A CHRISTIAN WIFE ~ SUBMITTING TO HER HUSBAND ~ ¶¶

▶▶in a situation ~ in which ~ the husband ~ is not a believer.

▷▷IOW, ~ the precept ~ still applies.

FOR CONTEXT, ~ LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING OF VERSE 1. ⇒⇒ READ 1-2

▶▶The phrase ~ **do not obey the word** ~ is just another way ~ of referring ~ to an unbeliever.

▶▶Right off the top, ~ what Peter says here ~ shows us that ~ ¶¶

▷▷even unsaved husbands ~ have ~ the God-given authority and leadership role ~ in the marriage.

PETER'S POINT HERE ~ IS AN ~ EVANGELISTIC ONE. ¶¶ 4/15

▶▶ Back in ~ 1 Pet. ~ 2: ~ 12, ~ Peter links ~ our conduct ~ with ~ our evangelism.

▷▷ Keep your conduct ~ among the Gentiles ~ honorable, ~ so that ~ when they speak against you ~ as evildoers, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ they may see ~ your good deeds ~ and glorify God ~ on the day of visitation.

▷▷ Peter's primary idea here ~ was that ~ in the midst ~ of people speaking against us "as doing evil," ~ ¶¶

↳↳ some unbelievers ~ will come to Christ ~ through the witness ~ of our honorable lifestyle.

▷▷ So, ~ our lifestyle ~ is an important feature ~ in ~ our evangelism.

▶▶ And the same is true ~ for a Christian wife ~ who is married to an unbeliever.

▶▶ Peter says, ~ so that ~ even if some ~ do not obey the word, ~ they may be won ~ without a word ~ by the conduct ~ of their wives, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ when they see ~ your respectful and pure conduct.

▷▷ In the immediate context, ~ "conduct" ~ refers ~ to the wife being submissive ~ to her husband.

↳↳ But the application is much wider.

→→ "Conduct," ~ since it's a more general term than ~ "submit," ~ implies ~ ¶¶

↳↳ that the wife's overall behavior ~ is an important factor ~ in attempting ~ to lead her husband to the Lord. ¶¶ 5/15

▷▷ And by using the phrase “respectful and pure conduct,” ~ ¶¶

↳↳ Peter is identifying ~ that the type of conduct he's talking about ~ is behavior ~ that glorifies God.

▶▶ So more specifically, ~ Peter is saying ~ that the wife's ~ godly behavior ~ which includes ~ her willing submission ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is an important factor ~ in attempting ~ to lead her husband to Jesus.

▶▶ Now, ~ I don't believe that Peter is telling wives, ~ or all believers in general, ~ as per 2:12, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to never ~ verbally ~ share the gospel.

▷▷ Rom. 10:17 (CSB).

↳↳ So faith ~ comes from ~ what is heard, ~ and what is heard ~ comes ~ through the message ~ about Christ.

▷▷ So Peter ~ is not telling believers ~ to never ~ verbally ~ share the gospel.

↳↳ I believe Peter ~ may have been using ~ hyperbole.

→→ I.e., ~ he was exaggerating ~ for the sake of effect.

↳↳ He's emphasizing, ~ in two places in his first epistle, ~ just how effective ~ ¶¶

→→ a life ~ that glorifies God ~ can be ~ evangelistically. ¶¶ 6/15

▶▶ A wife's ~ respectful, ~ pure, ~ and submissive behavior ~ may just lead her unsaved husband ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to inquire ~ as to what ~ inspires this conduct.

↳↳ And thus ~ opening the door ~ for her ~ to share the gospel.

▶▶ And, ~ of course, ~ what we have been saying ~ would apply ~ equally as well ~ to a Christian husband ~ ¶¶

▷▷ who is married ~ to an unbelieving wife.

IN 1 PETER ~ 3: ~ 3-4, ~ WE FIND PETER'S 2nd PRECEPT ~ FOR CHRISTIAN WIVES.

FIRST, ~ THE PRECEPT, ~ VERSE 3.

▶▶ Do not ~ let your adorning ~ be external ~ the braiding of hair ~ and the putting on of gold jewelry, ~ or the clothing you wear

▶▶ It is ~ extremely important ~ to understand here ~ what Peter is not saying.

▶▶ Peter is not saying ~ wives cannot ~ have nice hairdos ~ or wear expensive jewelry ~ or expensive clothes.

▷▷ He's simply using them ~ to point out, ~ by way of contrast, ~ what's more important.

▷▷ Peter's point ~ is that ~ the development of ~ inner ~ character ~ ¶¶

↳↳ matters ~ 100% more ~ than ~ outward ~ appearance. ¶¶ 7/15

▶▶It is also extremely important to understand, ~ that ~ 77

▷▷while Peter is speaking ~ specifically ~ to wives, ~ the application ~ is much wider.

▷▷The command ~ to focus more ~ on the development ~ of proper inner character ~ 77

↳↳than outward appearance ~ applies ~ to all believers, ~ whether ~ male or female, ~ single or married.

▶▶Jesus slammed the scribes and Pharisees ~ for focusing on the external ~ and neglecting the internal, ~ 77

▷▷which shows us ~ the importance ~ of developing ~ proper ~ inner character.

↳↳Matt. ~ 23: ~ 27-28

▶▶And God's words to Samuel ~ make it very clear ~ that ~ the inside ~ is more important ~ than ~ the outside.

▷▷1 Sam. 16:6-7

THEN ~ IN ~ 1 PET. ~ 3: ~ 4, ~ PETER DEFINES ~ 77

▶▶this proper inner character that ~ is to be developed, ~ not just by wives, ~ but by all believers.

▶▶But let your adorning ~ be the hidden person ~ of the heart ~ [i.e., ~ your beauty ~ should come ~ from inside you] ~ 77

▷▷with the imperishable beauty ~ of a gentle and quiet spirit. 77 8/15

▷▷ "gentle" ~ means ~ showing humility, ~~ consideration of others, ~~ not insisting on one's own rights, ~~ not being pushy or overly assertive.

▷▷ "quiet" ~ refers ~ to inner character ~ that calmly bears disturbances ~ created by others ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and ~ that does not ~ create trouble.

▶▶ Simply put, ~ Peter is calling on wives, ~ and by application ~ all believers, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to focus ~ on developing ~ Christ-like ~ character.

↳↳ In Matt. ~ 11: ~ 29, ~ Jesus described Himself as ~ "gentle and humble in heart."

NOTICE ~ HERE IN 1 PET. ~ 3: ~ 4, ~ THAT ~ PETER REFERS ~ to Christ-like character ~ as ~ "imperishable."

▶▶ In contrast, ~ clothing, ~ jewelry, ~ and our bodies ~ are ~ perishable.

▶▶ Peter here ~ is giving a specific example ~ of a general principle ~ stated by Paul ~ in 2 Cor. ~ 4: ~ 18 (NIV).

▷▷ So we fix our eyes ~~ not ~ on what is seen, ~~ but ~ on what is unseen, ~~ since what is seen ~ is temporary, ~~ but ~ what is unseen ~ is eternal.

▷▷ Greek word for temporary ~ pertains ~ to ~ a relatively short period of time, ~ with emphasis ~ upon the temporary nature ~ of the event or state.

▶▶ We can own ~ every stitch of expensive clothing ~ and piece of jewelry ever made.

▷▷ They will not ~ follow us ~ into eternity. ¶¶ 9/15

▶▶ We can pour ~ enormous amounts of cash ~ into making our bodies look good.

▷▷ Our present bodies ~ will not ~ follow us ~ into eternity.

▶▶ On the other hand, ~ "a gentle and quiet spirit," ~ i.e., ~ Christ-like character ~ ¶¶

▷▷ will ~ follow us ~ into eternity.

▷▷ 1 Tim. 4: ~ 7-8

▶▶ Perhaps ~ we can consider ~ Christ-like character ~ to be one the treasures ~ that we can store up in heaven.

▷▷ Matt. 6: ~ 19-21

AT THE END OF 1 PET. ~ 3: ~ 4, ~ PETER ADDS ~ THAT ~ "A GENTLE AND QUIET SPIRIT"
~ is precious in God's eyes.

▶▶ And what is precious in God's eyes ~ should be precious ~ in his people's eyes.

NOW LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION ~ TO THE TWO PRECEPTS ~ PETER HAS ~ FOR husbands.

THE FIRST PRECEPT, ~ 1 PET. ~ 3: ~ 7a.

CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS, ~ LIVE WITH YOUR WIVES ~ IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY.

▶▶ The phrase ~ live with your wives ~ in an understanding way ~ is literally, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ live with your wives ~ according ~ to knowledge. ¶¶ 10/15

▶▶ That a husband ~ should live with his wife ~ in an understanding way ~ implies ~ 77

▷▷ more than just ~ a kind attitude.

▷▷ It goes deeper, ~ implying ~ that living with his wife ~ in an understanding way ~ is based on ~ 77

↳↳ his knowledge ~ of her ~ needs, ~ desires, ~ gifts, ~ and ~ abilities.

▷▷ A husband ~ who acts on his knowledge of his wife ~ will greatly ~ enrich her life, ~ as well ~ as his own.

PETER'S SECOND PRECEPT ~ FOR HUSBANDS ~ IS IN VERSE 7b.

PETER EXPLAINS ~ THAT A HUSBAND ~ MUST ALSO ~ RESPECT HIS WIFE ~ AS THE weaker partner.

▶▶ showing honor to the woman ~ as the weaker vessel

▶▶ If I understand this correctly ~ boiled down, ~ the word ~ "vessel" ~ refers ~ to an instrument ~ whereby something ~ is accomplished.

▷▷ I point you here ~ to Acts 9:15. ⇔⇔ Used of Paul.

↳↳ But the Lord said to him, ~ "Go, ~ for he is a chosen ~ instrument ~ of mine ~ to carry my name ~ before ~ the Gentiles ~ and kings ~ and the children of Israel.

→→ IOW, ~ Paul was an instrument ~ for God's service.

▷▷ I believe ~ it is used in this sense ~ here ~ in 1 Pet. ~ 3: ~ 7b. 77 11/15

▷▷ The wife ~ is God's instrument, ~ along with her husband ~ for God's service ~ in the family ~ and in society.

▷▷ The word "vessel" here ~ can also be translated ~ as "partner."

▶▶ The word ~ "weaker" ~ refers to physical weakness, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ not to ~ moral, ~ spiritual, ~ or intellectual ~ inferiority.

▷▷ Peter used the term ~ not to diminish women, ~ but to build a case ~ for respecting them.

FELLOW HUSBANDS, ~ WE ARE TO EXERCISE ~ OUR GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY AND leadership ~~ with respect ~~ for our wives.

▶▶ We are not ~ to bully or coerce our wives ~ in any way. coerce

▶▶ A husband ~ who respects his wife ~ will ~ protect, ~ honor, ~ and ~ help ~ her.

▷▷ He will ~ respect her opinions, ~ listen to her advice, ~ and ~ be considerate of her needs.

↳↳ Plus, ~ he will relate to her, ~ both privately and publicly, ~ with ~ love, ~ courtesy, ~ insight, ~ and tact.

▶▶ While the wife ~ may be weaker physically, ~ she is also ~ a partner to her husband.

▷▷ This implies ~ a side-by-side relationship ~ of working together ~ for God's glory ~ ¶¶

↳↳ in their family, ~ in their local church, ~ and ~ in society at large. ¶¶ 12/15

▶▶ The Christian husband ~ must exercise ~ his God-given authority and leadership ~ ¶¶

▷▷ with ~ knowledge of ~ and respect for ~ his wife.

↪↪ He must ~ never be ~ a tyrant, ~ faithless, ~ unloving, ~ or impatient.

IN 1 PET. ~ 3: ~ 7c, ~ PAUL GIVES US ~ THE REASON ~ ¶¶

FOR LIVING WITH OUR WIVES ~ IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY ~ and ~ for showing her respect.

▶▶ It is because ~ they are heirs with us ~ of the grace of life.

THIS REMINDS EACH CHRISTIAN HUSBAND ~ THAT ~ even though he has been given ~ ¶¶

▶▶ greater authority and the leadership position ~ within his marriage, ~ his wife ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is still equal to him ~ in spiritual privilege ~ and ~ in eternal importance.

▶▶ Husband and wife ~ are both ~ joint-heirs with Jesus.

▷▷ In the marriage relationship ~ the husband and wife ~ complement each other.

▷▷ In their personal standing before God, ~ there is equality.

▷▷ Both ~ are accepted by God ~ on the same basis, ~ his grace.

▷▷ Believing wives, ~ like Christian husbands, ~ believe in the same Savior. ¶¶ 13/15

▷▷ Both husband and wife ~ are redeemed by the blood of Christ.

▷▷ Both live ~ by the same empowering grace, ~ bestowed by the Holy Spirit.

▷▷ And both ~ look forward ~ to the same eternal destiny.

▶▶ Recognition ~ of this reality ~ will prevent ~ a husband's abuse ~ of his authority and leadership.

▶▶ And remember, ~ the Christian husband ~ is only allowed ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to exercise his authority & leadership ~ within the parameters ~ that God has set up.

↪↪ I don't think ~ this can be reiterated enough.

→→ We are not free ~ to lead our marriage ~ any way we want.

IN 1 PET. ~ 3: ~ 7d, ~ PETER INCLUDES AN ADMONITION TO HUSBANDS.

SO THAT ~ YOUR PRAYERS ~ MAY NOT ~ BE HINDERED.

▶▶ Peter here ~ adds the warning to husbands ~ that ~ ¶¶

▷▷ if they fail to obey these two precepts, ~ their prayers ~ would be hindered.

THE GREEK WORD FOR ~ "HINDERED" ~ IS APPARENTLY ~ A MILITARY METAPHOR.

▶▶ And it means ~ "to cut in on," ~ "throw obstacles in the way" ~ or ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "cut up the road" ~ so that ~ normal movement ~ is impossible. ¶¶ 14/15

▶▶IOW, ~ a husband's disobedience ~ hinders his prayers, ~ so that ~ they do not rise ~ to God's throne.

▶▶To put it bluntly, ~ he's in sin.

▷▷And Is. 59:2 ~ says, ⇨⇨ but your iniquities ~ have made a separation ~ between ~ you and your God, ~ and your sins ~ have hidden his face from you ~ so that ~ he does not hear.

IN GENERAL, ~ A BELIEVER'S FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD ~ IS CLOSELY RELATED ~ ¶¶

▶▶to his/her relations ~ with others.

▷▷Jesus said ~ that if you have a problem with a fellow believer, ~ ¶¶

↳↳you must make it right with that person ~ before ~ coming to worship (Matthew 5:23-24).

▶▶This principle ~ carries over ~ into a man's marriage relationship.

▷▷If a husband ~ uses his position ~ ¶¶

↳↳to treat his wife ~ contrary to God's commands, ~ his relationship with God ~ will suffer.

▷▷A husband ~ should not expect ~ to have a vital ministry ~ in life ~ or ~ in prayer ~ ¶¶

↳↳if he is mistreating his wife ~ in any way.

VERY SERIOUS WORDS ~ TO WIVES AND HUSBANDS, ~ LET'S PRAY 15/15