

I. INTRODUCTION.

-  A. Scripture text: **1Peter 3:1-17**.
- B. Submission is the key word in chapters two and three. We have been called to submit and to suffer.
- C. My (remaining) schedule:
 - 6. Aug. 9 The Victory Over Suffering (1Pet. 3:18-4:19).
 - 7. Aug. 16 The Victory Over Satan (1Pet. 5).
 - 8. Aug. 23 The True Knowledge of Life (2Pet. 1:1-15).
 - 9. Aug. 30 True Knowledge Revealed (2Pet. 1:16-2:22).
 - 10. Sep. 6 The Safeguards of True Knowledge (2Pet. 3:1-18).

II. SUBMISSION IN THE HOME.

-  A. The text: See 1Pet. 3:1-7.
Peter spends the first six verses speaking to women, and verse seven to men.
- B. Submission (3:1):
In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,
 - 1. “Likewise” or “In the same way” refers back to the earlier discussion of submission and service. It is out of the attitude of X that wives are to be submissive to their husbands.
 - 2. The best “weapon” a believing wife has in trying to convert her unbelieving husband is her life.
 - 3. The unbelieving husband who is disobedient to the word may become obedient if he sees the fruit of an obedient life.
-  C. Consistency (3:2):
as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.
 - 1. Pure character and actions that come from a healthy fear of God.
 - 2. Godly wives are to be chaste (pure) before God, and show respect to their husbands.
-  D. Adornment (3:3):
And let not your adornment be merely external-- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;
 - 1. To dress immodestly means to be under-dressed or over-dressed. In each case the adornment draws attention to self.
 - 2. The lavish external dress when not done properly is merely external and does not show the internal beauty that God desires.
 - 3. Peter wants godly women to dress modestly so that by her adornment she will call attention to her husband and to God.
-  E. Character (3:4):
but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.
 - 1. The outer dress of the woman of God will show her inner beauty.
 - 2. The inner beauty is that of the heart which is full of gentleness and humility (a quiet spirit).
-  F. Status (3:5,6):
For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. [6] Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.
 - 1. While the world may frown and say this gives the woman no status in the home or world--God views things differently.

2. The example is that of Sarah; well-spoken of by God! Her dress and manner of life was pleasing to God and she showed the proper respect to her husband. Sarah dressed outwardly and inwardly, not to call attention to herself but unto her husband.
3. Godly women of old followed the example of Sarah (3:5), and so should Xian women today.

 G. Husbands (3:7):

You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1. Notice Peter's use of "in the same way" meaning that men are called to lives of service and submission.
2. Husbands are to live in such a way as to understand and appreciate the role that God has assigned to women who profess godliness.
3. Men are to live with their wives:
 - a. Physically. That is to "dwell with them." Marriage is a physical relationship!
 - b. Intellectually. That is, "according to knowledge" or "in an understanding way." The good husband will be sensitive to his wife's moods, feelings, needs, fears, and hopes.
 - c. Emotionally. That is, "giving honor to the wife." He is to treat her as a "weaker vessel," that is, he must treat her like an expensive, beautiful, yet fragile vase--a precious treasure. Give honor by respecting her thinking and desires.
 - d. Spiritually. That is, as a "fellow heir," as someone who will be in heaven with you! As heirs both husband and wife show submission and service to X, and the wife to her husband.

III. **SUBMISSION IN THE CHURCH (AS CHRISTIANS).**

 A. The text: See 1Pet. 3:8-17.

"To sum up," means, "as a conclusion to this section." This may very well be the core of the letter!

B. The Christian's Life (3:8-12).

To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; [9] not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. [10] For, "LET HIM WHO MEANS TO LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING GUILE. [11] "AND LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. [12] "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

1. Notice the great qualities:

a. Unity.	d. Pity.
b. Sympathy.	e. Humility.
c. Love.	f. Forgiveness.
2. The good life is characterized by; proper speech, proper love, and the pursuit of peace.
3. The blessing is that God is always aware of the good attitude and actions of His people.

 C. The Christian's Security (3:13,14):

And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? [14] But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,

1. A passionate love for goodness means that wrong things lose their fascination and power.
2. The word 'blessed' is sometimes translated "congratulations from God." To be blessed means that God has congratulated you on doing the right thing. Reread the beatitudes from Mt. 5 this way.

 D. The Christian's Argument (3:15-17):

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; [16] and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. [17] For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

1. Make your heart right with God by setting it apart from the thinking of the world.
2. The argument (apology) does not mean to say you are sorry, but rather make a defense.
3. Make your defense by being ready to “give an account.” Know the word!
4. Make your defense by living a life of submission and service.
5. Make your defense in gentleness and reverence.
6. Make your defense with humility so that your opponents will be put to shame.
7. Make your defense in such a way that if you have to suffer you will do so for doing what is good.

IV. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.



- A. The Xian life means being submissive and suffering.
- B. Xians are to be submissive to the civil authorities and to earthly masters.
Xians are also to be submissive in the home and in Xian living.
- C. Are you ready to “give an account?”
 1. Do you know the word well enough to argue for what is right?
 2. Are you living in such a way that you will suffer what is good and not for doing wrong?
- D. If you were called on trial for being a Xian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.