



Home Worship Guide – 1st Peter 3:1-6

Complement to sermon on November 11th, 2012

MEMORIZE

1st Peter 3:4 (ESV)

“But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.”

READ

Read 1st Peter 3:1-6

Peter tells wives in 3:1, to submit to their husbands. And before he ever gets into specifics, he gives a general rule to demonstrate what he means by this when he says, “in the same way.” The question is who’s way or what way does he mean when he says “in the same way?” To answer this, we need to look at the preceding verses. Read 2:13-25 and then continue on.

Peter begins his submission section generally and then gives specific examples. He tells Christians to submit to all human instituted authority. Submitting to government, submitting to work authority, and now he is talking to wives. Before he gets to wives, however, Peter talks about Jesus and his example of submitting to the Father even to death on a cross. So when Peter uses the phrase, “in the same way” he is looking back to the preceding verses and specifically to the example of Christ.

All along he is encouraging Christians to “do good” and “show respect” so “they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us” (v12). Remember, this is the key verse to all of Peter and this same thought process is seen in 3:1-6. Notice the reason Peter gives wives to submit to their husbands: “so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without the words by the behavior of their wives” (3:1). It is important to realize the Peter is not advocating the marriage of a believer to a non-believer, he is simply attesting to the power and effectiveness when someone lives out the gospel.

Peter then spends the rest of the verses giving specific behaviors for wives to put into their lives. In verse 3 he says beauty should not come from the outside by adornments, but from the inside by a gentle and quiet spirit. This is quite contrary to the culture of our day which overwhelms us with images of external beauty and little or no internal beauty to go with it. Wives do good and show respect to their husbands by submitting to them with a gentle and quiet spirit which is only possible when Jesus Christ reigns in their hearts.

Discussion: (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. What is the concept of beauty in 2012? Is this biblical or not?
 - a. If yes, how? If no, what needs to be changed to align with what Peter is saying?
2. Compare biblical submission with American culture on submission as it pertains to wives. Do they clash? How is our understanding of submission affected by growing up in America?
3. What are practical ways of having and demonstrating a “gentle and quiet spirit?”

Bottom Line:

SING

“Lead me to the Cross” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykvBESMCPH4&feature=related>)

We can only have beauty from the inside if Jesus Christ reigns in our hearts. As you sing this song, think about how Jesus gives you inner beauty and thank Him for it.



SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool (up to 5)

- Have some fruit with your preschooler. Make sure it is a fruit that you have to peel, like an orange, grapefruit or banana
- Ask them to sit down and help you to peel it. Talk to them about the peel and its purpose. Say that this peel is like our bodies.
- When it is all peeled, talk about the fruit. Talk about how if our attention is only on the peel we miss the best part. Just as the best part of the fruit is on the inside, so are we. Our true beauty lies within and we show it by loving, sharing, being kind.
- Have fun eating the fruit with your kids.

Children (K-5th)

- Take a blank sheet of paper
- Use crayons (any color but black) and color the whole page. The more colors the better, just make sure the whole page is colored.
- When done, use a black crayon and color over everything.
- Then take a toothpick and write out a verse perhaps combining verse 3 and 4 and saying, "Beauty should not come from outward adornment. Instead, it should be that of your inner self."
- Explain to your children that just like the pretty colors that show up when the inner self is seen with the crayons, the same is true with us. Our beauty is decided by our love and gentleness not by our looks.
 - Talk about what practical ways we can show our inner beauty

Students (6th-12th)

- Read Proverbs 31 and Ruth (hint: Ruth is a story form presentation of Proverbs 31)
- Talk about Proverbs 31 in light of our culture. Is Proverbs 31 out dated and out of touch with reality? Or does it still offer practical wisdom and guidance for wives?
- If you have a daughter, talk to her about pursuing this character description. What makes it difficult? What fears do they have? Do they find this description desirable?
- If you have a son, talk to him about valuing the kind of woman described in Proverbs 31. Have a conversation about the differences between what culture and the bible say about what makes a good wife
- How much of Proverbs 31 can you see played out in Ruth? What can we learn from Ruth?

PRAY

Lord Jesus, we pray for the woman and girls of our church and of our world. Free them from the oppressive chains of cultural stereotypes and give them the strength to show their true beauty which lies on the inside.