

1 Peter 1:13-21 Discussion Questions

Sermon Outline

Introduction

- Recapping the ruling principle of Peter's exhortation to the elect exiles
 - 1 Peter 2.11-12
- Table of contents
 - Understanding the Greco-Roman Household and the structure of this text
 - A Message for Slaves
 - A Message for Wives
 - A Warning for Husbands
- **Understanding the Greco-Roman Household and the Structure of this text**
- The orderliness of the household was vital to the prosperity of society.
 - Any religion that attempted to reorient or upend the hierarchy of the household would be highly scrutinized and rejected.
 - Slaves were expected to worship the gods of the master of the house and receive all of their education from him.
 - Wives were seen as authoritative in the household over children and slaves, but unable to worship or acquire friendships apart from her husband. She too was expected to look to him for education.
 - ***A wife ought not to make friends of her own, but to enjoy her husband's friends in common with him. The gods are the first and most important friends. Wherefore it is becoming for a wife to worship and to know only the gods that her husband believes in, and to shut the front door tight upon all queer rituals and outlandish superstitions. - Plutarch***
- **Peter's writing is a radical paradox of upholding and denying the social order by submitting it to the greater authority of Christ.**
 - Peter exhorts and encourages slaves and wives by explaining how they faithfully reflect Christ and his people.

- Peter exhorts and warns husbands about their call of submission to the Lord as displayed by their care for their household.

- **A Message for Slaves**

- Exhortation-v. 18
- Explanation- v.19-21
- Illustration- v.22-24a
- Encouragement- v.24b-25
 - Isaiah 53.4-6

- **A Message for Wives**

- Exhortation-v.1a; 3-4
 - Matthew 11.25-29
- Explanation- v.1b-2; 4b
- Illustration-v.5-6a
- Encouragement-v.6b

- **A Warning to Husbands**

- Exhortation
- Explanation
- Warning

- **Implications**

- *Jesus affirms the dignity of the vulnerable*
 - An apology
- *A conversation about grace*
 - Sovereign grace
 - Common grace
 - <http://kingsharbor.org/crisis-intervention/>
- *A conversation about privilege*
 - **"Righteousness is the root of justice, and justice is the offspring of righteousness"- Charlie Dates**
 - **"We are witnessing the emergence of a new generation of Americans, that are fascinated with justice, but they haven't met the author of righteousness. They are trying to get justice on the streets apart from understanding righteousness taught in our churches. And they will never find it."**

Discussion Questions

Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture and faithfully apply it to their lives.

Read 1 Peter 2:18-3:7

1. We see that in this passage Peter continues to unpack for his audience what it looked like for them abstain from sinful passions and live with honorable conduct as witnesses for Christ in front of their non-Christian neighbors (2:11-12). In the previous passage (2:13-17) he focused on how they were to do that as citizens. Now he turns his attention to how the home should operate.

a. In his instruction to household bondservants, he stresses that they ought to follow Jesus' perfect example as *the suffering servant* (Is. 53), and endure injustice while trusting in God for deliverance. In this he specifically highlights how Jesus refused to sin with his mouth (deceive, revile, threaten, etc.) against those who oppressed him. Why do you think that Peter stresses ways that we might be insubordinate through our speech?

b. In light of Peter's teaching, what then does it look like to respond appropriately to unfair or unjust authorities in your life?

c. Do you have some examples of how you have had to face situations where those in authority over you were unfair? How did you respond? How did that situation play out?

d. What did God teach you through that situation?

2. In 3:1-7 Peter turns his attention to husbands and wives. In this text, Peter instructs wives honor their husbands by submitting to them, and for husbands to honor their wives by being understanding and regard them as co-heirs with you.

a. What about these verses do find to be the most challenging for you and why?

b. How have you seen God use the examples of godly wives to influence their husbands towards Christ?

c. What does it mean for a husband to live with his wife in an "understanding" way, honoring them since they are co-heirs of the "grace of life"?

d. Perhaps you have experienced or witnessed a husband/wife relationship where both parties were being faithful to Peter's instructions here. If so, what does or did that look like? What did decision making look like?

1) What was the fruit of the relationship? How did it affect them and their children?

3. One of the challenging questions that this topic can bring up is how Christians ought to respond to verbal or physical abuse in a marriage. It is clear that we ought love, care for, and protect our brothers and sisters in Christ.

a. How can we as the Church do a better job for protecting and caring for those stuck in that situation?

b. How can you as a Community Group be intentional about making sure that those in your group are protected and cared for in this regard?

4. So, on one hand, Peter's teaching supports the norms of Roman society with regard to the home by maintaining certain principles of authority and order that God has ordained and the Romans happened to recognize. And yet, Peter's teachings also challenged and corrected Greco-Roman thought by recognizing that unjust masters would be punished by God, husbands could and should learn from the wives as well, and that they should honor and be considerate of their wives.

a. How do you see the biblical teaching both affirming and challenging our culture's understanding of how a home should operate?

5. Another theme we find in this text is that God's will is that those who wield power and privilege ought to use them for the benefit of the vulnerable. This is

something that is consistent throughout the Scriptures and is modeled by God himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

- a. Where have you seen or experienced this most profoundly and how did it affect you?
- b. How has God taught you to do this? Who has he put it on your heart to look out for?
- c. Who in your life or sphere of influence is the most vulnerable and how can you use your power, influence, and resources to look out for them?