

## The Book of I Peter Part 9 – I Peter 3:7-12

Let me remind you as we continue our study in I Peter chapter 3 that you should have your Bible open, reading along with me as we study the Word of God. I do use the King James Version of the Bible, so if you would open your Bible and read along with me, we'll discuss and we'll go through I Peter chapter 3 now.

We've looked at the duty of a wife towards her husband, and as we've looked at this in verses 1-6, we see that the wife is to be submissive; the wife is to dress properly; and because of these two things, dressing properly and being submissive, this is the way the holy women of old did. This is the way Sarah did. She dressed properly and she was submissive to her husband.

And we continue our study now by looking at the part of the husband toward the wife. In verse 7 of I Peter chapter 3, it says, *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them... [that's with the wife...] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

Well, the husband, I believe, according to this Scripture is to live with understanding. Sometimes husbands will take for granted that the wife just understands everything, and the husband will get upset if the wife has a different opinion or a different outlook on something. But the husband is to live with understanding, of understanding that there are times when we take for granted what the wife knows, and sometimes the husband will get irritated, if I could use that word. The husband will get irritated with the wife if she doesn't see exactly the way he sees things. But we're to live

together with understanding according to knowledge.

The husband is to get to know the wife and understand that the wife was created as a helpmeet, not as a slave, not as someone who is a robot, but someone who is a human being who needs to be treated not only as a wife, but as a sister in Christ. And, of course, that has to do with the husband being saved and the wife being saved.

But we also see in that verse, in verse 7, that the husband is to give respect and admiration to the wife as to the weaker vessel and as being heirs together in the grace of life. And that means that they should both be saved, and the reason for that is so your prayers may not be hindered.

Ephesians 5:24 says, *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.* In Colossians 3:19, it says, *Husband, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.* Don't treat them wrong. Don't treat them harshly, but treat them as the weaker vessel. Treat them as the woman that you married. Treat that woman with respect. Take care of that woman. Do what you're supposed to do, and above all, the Bible says, *love your wives.* Well, the duties of a wife are to be submissive and dress properly, and the duty of a husband is to treat that wife with understanding, respect, and admiration.

And now we look at a second section here in I Peter chapter 3 and that is our duties as brethren. And this would actually cover I Peter 3:8-12.

As we look at this, we see Christian duties toward other Christians or toward each other. Verses 8-9 say, <sup>8</sup>*Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another....* Now, Peter is drawing the husband and wife together and also other Christians together here, and he says, *Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: <sup>9</sup>Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*

Verse 8 tells us that we're to have one goal, and that one goal is to be of one mind. That doesn't mean that we're, once again, like robots, that we cannot express what we see and what we hear and give out the expression that we see or the interpretation that we see of something, but we're to have one goal. That one goal, I believe, is to be of one mind and that is to serve the Lord. We're here for a purpose. We are ambassadors for Christ as saved people, and we should have one goal and that one goal is to serve our Lord. And as we do that, we have one mind and we also have compassion one of another. And the verse says that we are to love as brethren. We're to treat each other kindly and we're to love our brothers and sisters in Christ.

It says there we are to have sympathy, in other words, compassion, toward one another. We're to love toward each other as God loves with mercy and compassion. We're to be kind, and that word "pitiful" there is to be kind to one another. And we're not to retaliate when someone says or does something to us wrong. In other words, we see someone that we think that has done us wrong, we're not to retaliate against that person, according to verse 9. We're to do the opposite. We're to render blessing. And Matthew 5:44 says, *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for*

*them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.* Now there's only one way we can do that. And let me say, as a human being that is not easy, but as a human being that knows Christ as Savior, that's the way we do this. We are not to retaliate, but we're to love our enemies, and we want the best for our enemies and the best is for them to know Jesus Christ as Savior. And that verse, once again, is teaching us that we're not to render evil for evil. We're not to retaliate. We're to do the opposite, and that verse is I Peter 3:9.

Ephesians 4:32 says, *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.* We are reminded that Jesus forgave us while we were yet unlovely. In other words, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us and gave Himself for us that we could be saved and go to Heaven. And how much more then should we love our brothers and sisters in Christ? And the verse goes on in I Peter 3:9, and I believe it's teaching us that we are meant to be a blessing, and as we are being a blessing, we will be blessed of God.

Now, something else we look at here in I Peter 3:10-12, it's a motivation to fulfill our duties. It says there in verses 10-12, <sup>10</sup>*For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: <sup>11</sup>Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. <sup>12</sup>For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

I believe what these verses are teaching...verse 10, I believe, is teaching that we are to love and have good days. When we love, when we're loving the brethren, and when we do good instead of doing evil. We have so many better days when we do that. Psalm 118:24 says, *This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will*

*rejoice and be glad in it.* I believe when our feet touch the floor, even before then, when we get out of bed, we are to greet the day by saying, "Lord, I love You and thank You once again that You've given me another day that I can serve You, that I can love the brethren, that I can count myself worthy to be a saved person and on my way to Heaven."

Well, we're to love life according to verse 10 and verse 10 also teaches us that we're to speak no evil. Proverbs 12:18 says, *There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.* Think before you speak. Proverbs 15:4 says, *A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.* We're to speak no evil, but we are to speak kindly, not only to each other as Christians but to other people who are around and about us. Once again, that has to do with our testimony, as well.

In verse 11, I believe is saying do not pursue but eschew evil... be good. In Proverbs 11:30, it says, *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,* and as we are doing good, people see that. And we often say, "Well, they respect us but actually they will see God through us if we let the light of the Lord shine through us by doing good, not only to our brothers and sisters, but to this world in general, to the unsaved people of this world. Proverbs 14:22 says, *Do they not err that devise evil? But mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.* We're not to go about trying to figure out something that's wrong. Once again, we go back and think of we're not to retaliate against someone if they do evil against us, but we're to do good and we're to have mercy on that individual.

Verse 11, I believe, also is saying seek and pursue peace. In Romans 12:18, it says, *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.* There comes a time when it just doesn't seem that we can do good

and treat everybody alike and live peaceably. Well, my advice is to step back. Step away and once again, heated words... that's no good. We need to step back and take account and see what is wrong.

And most of the time I find that it's with me. If I see something going on that is wrong, I have to look at myself and say, "Lord, forgive me. I was wrong." And rather than, once again, retaliation, I have to do good to that individual, because I have to look, first of all, that that person is my brother or sister in Christ, and then I have to look and say has that person been born again. And if not, I need to lead that person to Christ and I need to be a witness, not only to the unsaved but also to my brothers and sisters in Christ.

And then we see also that the Lord sees and hears everything. In Proverbs 15:3 it says, *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.* In Psalm 139:8, it says, *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.* And in verse 12, we see that the Lord opposes evil. The Lord doesn't want us to do evil. He doesn't want anyone to do evil.

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