

Message: “HAVING COMPASSION” by Pastor Jon Whisner, 2/13/22

Description: The books of 1st & 2nd Peter are written to the church when they were enduring intense persecution and suffering for following Christ. Peter writes this book to encourage believers to be hopeful even amidst testing and opposition, and gives them practical guidance on living out their faith in daily life. In 1st Peter chapter three, Peter addresses the subject of marriage and how to properly respond to a mate who does not know Christ. The advice given is also applicable when both mates know the Lord, but find themselves at odds with one another.

Key Scripture: 1 Peter 3:1-12

Takeaway / Application: Satan, this world, our society, and our own flesh, are attacking husbands and wives in order to steal, kill, and destroy God’s plan for marriage and families. Peter reveals to both sexes how they can lovingly, faithfully resolve their marital struggles through submission, humility, patience, love, and a gentle spirit.

- 1 Peter 3:1 not only encourages wives to be submissive to their husbands as the leader of their homes—but also to convince their husband to follow Christ “*without a word*”. No more repeat conversations needed. No more insistence. No more demands. No more threats. No more pleas or begging... .. Silence. Peter encourages wives of wayward husbands to change it up—and let their “lifesong”, their conduct, do the talking. Discuss verses 1-2 in your group, also focusing on the power of “chaste conduct accompanied by fear”.
- Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Peter encourages these young wives to not overemphasize, obsess or overcorrect when it comes to their outward appearance. Peter is not so much *condemning* looking nice and presentable in physical appearance—as much as he is *commending* focusing your best energy on taking care of your heart. Talk together about the influence of those in your life who did not neglect their appearance—but still majored in cultivating a heart after God—caring more about “*the hidden person of the heart*” and striving for “*incorruptible beauty*” and having a “*gentle and quiet spirit*” (v3-5).
- 1 Peter 3:7 is a loaded verse for husbands. Break down the verse and focus on: “dwell with them” / “with understanding” / “giving honor to the wife...” “being heirs together...” / “that your prayers may not be hindered”.
- If any of the previous verses are going to work, compassion must be implemented. Coldness, rigidity, stubbornness, fault-finding, guilt-trips, paybacks, harsh words, combativeness...none of those conditions of the heart will produce fruits of righteousness in a marriage, family, church, or society. Compassion must be given and received. Discuss 1 Peter 3:8-12.