

Lunch Time Bible Study
God's Holy Nation
A Study of 1&2 Peter: "Wedlock or Deadlock"
1 Peter 3:1-8

October 3, 2017

Likewise, wives be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the Word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives. (1 Peter 3:1)

I. The Real and the Ideal

- a. In life we can experience the "ideal" way that things are supposed to be and yet there many things beyond our control (the real). What is an ideal marriage? What is the reality of marriage?
- b. Consider the family Christ was born into. Joseph may have been considered the least holy, but he was the head. Jesus was the most holy and he was the most obedient.
- c. Marriage is a relationship of mutual surrender. Submissiveness is not the desire of a fallen world.
- d. Loving like Christ is simply beyond any man's natural capacity. We need spiritual power.
- e. Many men will admit that loving authentically is a challenge, and that loving the way God commands is the greatest challenge of their life.
- f. The husband is the head and the wife is the heart. He who loves his wife loves himself.

II. The Example of Christ in Marriage

- a. An example must exist before another can be made. *Likewise* refers to 1 Peter 2:21-25.
 1. St. Augustine's mother led him and his father to Christ. (*Confessions*)
 2. Good examples beget good examples, bad examples beget bad examples.
 3. In this letter Peter, used Sarah as an example of a godly, submissive wife.
- b. Just as Jesus was submitted to God's will, so a Christian husband and wife should follow His example. If there is no standard set we will make up things as we go and call it the right thing.
- c. Submission is an obligation that God commands because He knows it is the best arrangement.
- d. Submission is an opportunity to win an unsaved spouse. It is a powerful spiritual influence.
- e. The Christian wife must use the wisdom of God in her silence and in her speech.
- f. It is the character and conduct of the wife that will win the lost spouse – not arguments and strife.
- g. If there are unsaved people in the home, they will be won to Christ more by what they see in our lives and relationships than by what they hear.
- h. *Wives, submit to your husbands, as to the Lord. Husbands love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:22, 25)*

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Marriage is not for convenience it is a covenant. The problem is every couple does not enter marriage as a covenant. No marriage is immune from the divisive threats. (flesh, world, devil)
- b. What happens when a wife is submissive to her husband as to the Lord and her husband loves her by daily laying down his life (sacrificing) for her?
 1. The children are bathed in an environment of security and love.
 2. Children have a daily example of self-sacrificing love.
- c. Honest questions require honest answers.
 1. What are we teaching the current and next generation of about marriage?
 2. Are we partners or competitors? Are we helping each other to grow spiritually?
 3. Are we enriched because of our marriage, or robbing each other of God's blessing?
- d. Practice prayer. Know the purpose. Live with a plan.