

# Discussion Guide

Week of November 17, 2013

1 Peter 3:1-7

**Passage Overview:** In 1 Peter 2:11-12, Peter says that we are to live in a way that commends God to the world around us. Peter then applies this call to different areas of life. He applies it to citizens (2:13-17), slaves (2:18-20), wives (3:1-6) and husbands (3:7). Peter's words to each group revolve around his central call to follow the example of the cross (2:21-25). Specifically, wives and husbands are told to sacrifice for the good of the other just as Christ did for us on the cross. The cross then is our model, and commending God is our goal. This is true of how we live in the world and, if we are married, how we are to live with our spouse.

## Understanding God's Word—Read 1 Peter 3:1-7.

- List the different aspects of the wife's behavior or conduct that are taught here. What is she encouraged to be, to do or not to do?
- What two characteristics of their wives are husbands to keep in mind? How should each characteristic shape the husband's behavior?

## Living and Applying God's Word

- Compare 1 Peter 3:1-7 with 1 Timothy 2:9-10. What is the opposite of getting dressed in fancy clothes?
- What does it look like for a wife to be "a gentle and quiet spirit" (v4)? What is the effect of this sort of behavior by a wife? What example does Peter introduce as an encouragement to live this way?
- What particular challenges face wives with unbelieving husbands? How should they meet these challenges? What hope and encouragement does this passage provide?
  - Should a Christian wife leave her non-Christian husband? What if he is unkind to her? Why/why not?
- What sort of fear might a wife be overcome by (v6)?
- What typical failings of husbands does v7 address?

## Turning to God in Faith and Repentance

- (If you are married:) How do these verses challenge your marriage? How do they affect your behavior, attitudes, and prayer life?
- (If you are single:) How does the picture of marriage in 1 Peter 3 encourage you?
- Think about the different ways women dress and adorn themselves in your community.
  - What is the effect or purpose of these fashions?
  - How might 1 Peter 3 help Christian women to act rightly in this area?
  - How can a woman acquire the sort of genuine beauty that lasts and grows throughout her life?
- How can husbands . . .
  - Be considerate towards their wives as "the weaker vessel"?
  - Bestow honor upon their wives as "heirs . . . of the grace of life"?

**Prayer:** Thank God for his good gift of marriage and for all the good things that marriage brings. Ask God to help you think his way about marriage, love, and relationships. Pray also for one another.

## Announcements

- Starting Pointe (Dec 6-8)—three-session class that is a prerequisite for church membership; contact Robert to sign-up
- Baptism Sunday (Dec 8)—email Wayne if you are a follower of Jesus and haven't been baptized
- Youth Ski Retreat (Jan 2-5)—not just limited to youth! Contact Will for more info.