

# Modern Family Vintage Values: Family Hope (I Peter 3:1-7)

## Introduction.

- A) **For a marriage to work as God intended**, there must be trust, commitment, patience, sacrifice, selflessness, compassion, tenderness, dependence, and sharing. That statement is true for the best of circumstances. Why? ***Remember, we are flawed people that live in a broken world which results in imperfect relationships.***
- B) But what about a situation where one spouse is a believer and the other is not? That adds a whole other dimension to the imperfect relationship. TWO KINGDOMS ARE NOW INVOLVED. Is there any hope for mixed marriages in the Bible? YES!
- C) Contextualize I Peter 3 – Our sermon text is a part of a larger teaching section on submission. Times were tough for the readers of I Peter.

The Roman Emperor Nero, began his terrible persecution of Christians at about the same time that Peter wrote his first letter. In addition, his recipients may have been experiencing localized persecution at the hands of the Jews and others. Peter not only desired to encourage his readers during their difficulties, but also to challenge them to be effective witnesses during those same difficult times.

A quick survey of I Peter 2 and I Peter 3 reveals a repeated theme – submission or subjection. Note the word I Peter 2:13, I Peter 2:18, and I Peter 3:1. Each time these words are used, a new paragraph is introduced. In each paragraph he identifies a person or group of people that will be influenced by the believer's lifestyle.

- 1) **Call to Godly Living (2:11)**
- 2) **Submission to civil authority (2:13-17).**
- 3) **Submission to masters (2:18-20).**
- 4) **Submission to husbands (3:1-7).**

- D) **Contextualize this sermon** in the series titled, “Modern Family, Vintage Values.”

# I. Mixed Marriages

Some of Peter's readers apparently were saved women who were married to unsaved men.

## A) The circumstances (I Peter 3:1)

(Mixed-kingdom marriages result from a believer marrying an unbeliever or one spouse is saved in a non-believer/non-believer relationship.)

## B) The caution (2 Corinthians 5:17, 6:1, 6:14)

## C) The consequence

(Additional tension exists when two kingdoms try to live side-by-side in a marital relationship.)

## D) The response (1 Corinthians 7:17)

# II. Influencing The Unbelieving Spouse

## A) The wife's call to submit (3:1).

- 1) The power of Godliness (3:2-4)
- 2) The power of authenticity (3:3-4)
- 3) The power of respect (3:5-6)

(Respect is a voluntary decision to assign a high value or have a deep admiration for someone or something based on position, qualities, abilities, or achievements.)

- a) respect begins in the head (a decision)
- b) respect grows to the heart
- c) respect flows through the hands

## B) The husband's call to love.

- 1) The power of sacrificial love (Ephesians 5:25)
- 2) The power of spiritual leadership (Ephesians 5:26-27)
- 3) The power of respect (3:7)

# III. Value One Another

## **A) Husbands**

- 1) Genuine love takes the initiative (He first loved us)
- 2) Genuine love overlooks the little stuff (pick your battles)
- 3) Genuine love strives for reconciliation
- 4) Genuine love readily confesses sin and readily gives forgiveness
- 5) Genuine love willingly endures hardships

## **B) Wives**

- 1) Value his work, because he finds value in it.  
(Two guys meet and one of the first two questions asked is "What do you do for a living?")
- 2) Value his opinion, because he has likely processed it.
- 3) Value him for being involved in spiritual things.
- 4) Back him in front of the children and don't undermine him behind his back.
- 5) Value him above the children
- 6) Be careful with "I told you so" or "see, I was right." You may be, but he hears, "you are a dufus."
- 7) Let him pack the car for trips and do other manly things.
- 8) Value the differences between men and women. God made you that way. (Just remember guys like buying, while women like shopping.)
- 9) Remember, how you say something is just as important as what you say (this goes for both spouses).

## **Conclusion**