

# 1 Peter - Week 11

## Relationships

1 Peter 2:18 Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19 For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. NIV

- Relationships can be fulfilling but they can also be hard. Sometimes they can be UNFORGIVING.
- Nothing about what Peter is saying speaks of INDIVIDUALS separated from other people of like faith.

Two great truths Peter doesn't want us to miss:

1. Peter is reminding us of God's amazing GRACE here. How so?
  - God shows grace by putting GENTILES into the family of God.
  - God not only saves us, but gives us a unique place of INTIMACY with God as fellow children through Christ.
  - He also gives to us a great gift of RELATIONSHIP.

Eph 4:6[It is this:] that the Gentiles are now to be fellow heirs [with the Jews], members of the same body and joint partakers [sharing] in the same divine promise in Christ through [their acceptance of] the glad tidings (the Gospel).

2. God has DISINHERITED the nation of Israel and DISOWNED it because of their rejection of Christ.
  - Now the religious privilege they enjoyed has been given to whom? The CHURCH.
  - God's promises, purpose, and prophecies to the Hebrew people have not been cancelled--- only POSTPONED.

Our relationship with God today shows itself three ways:

1. By our REBIRTH
2. By our BELIEF
  - Struggles are to draw us closer to God, not to DISAPPOINT us in God.

- Maintain for yourself and your kids a new ATTITUDE concerning the world around us.
  - We need to see a new attitude concerning the WAR within us
3. By our BEHAVIOR
- “Conduct yourself properly” is talking about our CONVERSATIONS, our behavior, and our lifestyle.
  - It means to be HONEST about who you are, and who God is in you.

Principles we have learned in the first two chapters of 1 Peter:

1. Relationship sins are serious violations of God’s GRACE.
2. Peter warns us, you will either come to Christ for salvation or you will REJECT Him.
3. Believers are not the CENTERPIECE of the Christian church --Christ is.
4. Christians are people God has the right to POSSESS.
5. God’s gift of grace and salvation must result in a positive CHANGE in a believer’s behavior.
6. Peter reminds us that we must SUBMIT to human authorities.
7. Christian freedom is not a freedom to do as we like, it’s a freedom to do what we OUGHT.
8. Having a consciousness of the presence of God enables us to ENDURE unjust suffering or treatment.
9. Again, remember, it’s Jesus alone that enables us to be forgiven and to also FORGIVE. Not forgiving someone is not CONSISTENT with the life of Christ in a believer

Final thoughts and application:

- Spiritual GROWTH should and must be the highest priority for every believer.
- Dealing with our FLESH concerning anger, hatred, envy slander and all hypocrisies must be a believer’s constant goal.
- Don’t say anything about other BELIEVERS you would not say to their face.
- UNITY should be a goal and lifestyle in all of our relationships.
- Believers should be UNASHAMED to share what God has done for them through Jesus.
- Every Christian should be a good ADVERTISEMENT for who God is
- Moral purity must be the GOAL and the lifestyle of every believer.
- Don’t let your LIBERTY in Christ to be a stumbling block to others.