

**Intro:** When I do premarital counseling I almost always make a request. "If things get bad, Give me a call before call lawyer!" Occasionally I get one of those calls. I had one a 4 or 5 years ago, though, that left me speechless.

**Issue:** "When I get home from work she seldom has dinner waiting for me on the table!" I laughed...then realized... No only was this a personal issue...to him it was a SPIRITUAL issue! Wives are to submit, right? So doesn't!

**To Submit:** To voluntarily let someone else take the lead...DOESN'T mean be a door mat, or meekly surrender to stupid, unreasonable or ungodly demands!

(Friday, coffee, Darlene asked, what are you preaching on Sunday...Got smart and said, I'm teaching you to mind! So SHE asked, "How's that working for you? If Submission isn't being stupid or ungodly or unreasonable..what is it?

So then, WHAT DOES Submission look like...and how do we live it out?

## 1. Submission Means That You Trust God Has A Purpose In Asking You To Make Every Life Choice. Vs 1-2

Key to whole issue is found here in vs 1! "In the same way..."

"In the same way" as WHO...or in the same way as WHAT? Well, look back at what Peter has been writing to us!

Notice WHAT Peter is telling us to do:

- Same way that everyone submits to Government 2:13
- Same way that servants submit to masters 2:18
- Same way Jesus submitted to death!!! 2:21-23
- Same way Jesus submitted to his earthly parents! Luke 2:51  
(present middle participle) action perform upon self...YOU SUBMIT YOURSELF...Action and Choice you make!

Notice WHY Peter tells us to do it:

- Government Vs 5 God's will: To help others see the spiritual truth of God
- Masters: Vs 19 Conscious of God To demonstrate you TRUE master!
- Jesus: Vs 23 Entrusted: Lit = To surrender or yield up to God!
- Wives: Vs 3:1 So that/won over! To help win them to Christ, Grow if they know Him!  
If they don't listen to your word...maybe they will listen to your LIFE!

Here is what I want you to see in each and every one of these issues of Submission. Don't miss this...it is important.

If you allow yourself to get "lost" in the issue...then you will miss what God wants to do...

Here it is: GOD is doing something THROUGH you that is bigger THAN you!

Listen: You don't HAVE to live this kind of life. BUT if you want the greatest spiritual impact possible, I believe with all my heart that it comes about in the way in which God designed life to function! When you lay down your "rights", and you begin to live the way that Jesus lived...trusting that the Father knows what He is doing...even when what is before you is something that you would NEVER choose for yourself, THEN you discover that God has a better plan than YOU do.!

**Illus:** That is why I think Peter used the example of Jesus to set the stage for his message. Consider what came about when Jesus decided to submit to the will of the Father.

Follow His example Peter says: Example: Lit=A copy for you to imitate! (Children's alphabet book...sample letters)

## 2. Value God's Approval Of Your Life Over Our Culture's Approval. Vs 2-5

What makes a beautiful woman? Well, there are a LOT of opinions on that topic...but I think the one that matters is God!

That is what Peter is telling us in the next couple of verses. He is telling us that we have to choose the approval we want

- **Our Culture/World Approval**
  - ~Outward adornment *Peter is not telling us these things are WRONG in and of themselves*
  - ~Braided hair *Peter isn't saying to do these things is sinful. Not his point*
  - ~Gold Jewelry *But what he IS saying is don't that your first foot! Don't count on that!*
  - ~Fine clothes *Learn to look at something that is MUCH more important to God!*
- **God's Approval**
  - What Paul Calls the "hidden man of the heart" or the inner man vs the outer man! 2 Cor 4:16*
  - ~Purity of life *Modest, clean and pure: When was the last time you heard THAT emphasized!?*
  - ~Reverence of Life *Honor for God...Elevating and putting Him first in your life.*
  - ~Gentle Spirit *Gentle, Mild Mt 11:29: "Take my yoke and learn of me...I am MEEK!" Same Word*
  - ~Quiet Spirit *Still, Undisturbed, At Rest: Not chasing every new and changing fad*

Reminds us of the OT passage where it says

1 Sam 16:7 God doesn't look the way man looks! Man looks at outward appearance, but God looks at the heart!

**Key:** Who do you want to please? Where is your value coming from? Who is the most important person in your life?

If you listen to our culture...you will not be following the direction of God. The two are mutually exclusive!

### 3. Don't Be Afraid To Follow God's Direction For Your Life.

Vs 5-6

You see, Peter isn't dumb. He understands that what he is writing is going to be a very difficult thing to accept. So, he reaches back and gets an OT example, and then reminds us of the challenge...and how to overcome it!

- **OT Example:**  
~Sarah: Continuing to love Abraham, even when he made the same bad choices over and over!  
Remember when he passed her off as his wife a couple of times because he was afraid!  
She must have been a physically beautiful woman...she was continually taken for King!  
But...that isn't what is mentioned here. What you see her is the inner woman of the heart
- **Fear to Avoid** Don't give way to fear, or literally, don't fear any terror! Don't let fear win out in your heart  
There are MANY different fears that call out to you when you think about this kind of life!  
  
~Fear of Acceptance: What will my friends and family think if I let them know I choose this kind of life?  
~Fear of Approval: Who will endorse this kind of choice in my life/  
~Fear of Mistreatment What about if he doesn't treat me the way he should: Doesn't read Read 7ff  
~Fear of Taken Advantage of: What do I do when he is dumb and make bad choices?  
~Fear of giving up the other life: What do I do if I find it difficult to make my outer appearance secondary?

Anytime you make the choice that says,  
I understand I am living upside down...and I am going to make a change...It is terrifying!

- True when you live in relationship with Government that way
- True when you live in relationship with boss that way
- True when you live in relationship with husband/wife that way
- True when you live with God that way!

God has a purpose and an agenda. And, it isn't always making you comfortable  
Many times He is doing something BIGGER than you, THROUGH you...  
And when He is doing that, sometimes it hurts! Sometimes it stretches us! Sometimes it makes us uncomfortable!

But, if we are able to trust Him, and walk with Him and LIVE the way He calls us to live...  
We ultimately see a spiritual outcome that we could not achieve any other way!

#### CONCL:

So, let me ask you this question.

How much time have you spent on the Inner person of the heart this week?

And how much time have you spent on the Outer person?

The one you spend your time, attention, money and energy is the one you value the most

If that isn't what it SHOULD be...come make a commitment to move in the right direction

#### 2 Cor 4:13

*13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak,*

*14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.*

*15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.*

*16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

*17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

*18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*