

HOW TO BE UNSELFISH Living God's Way -- Part 5 I Peter 3:1-7

1 Peter 3:1-7 (GW)

1 Wives, in a similar way, place yourselves under your husbands' authority. Some husbands may not obey God's word. Their wives could win these men ^{↳for Christ} by the way they live without saying anything. 2 Their husbands would see how pure and reverent their lives are.

3 Wives must not let their beauty be something external. Beauty doesn't come from hairstyles, gold jewelry, or clothes. 4 Rather, beauty is something internal that can't be destroyed. Beauty expresses itself in a gentle and quiet attitude which God considers precious. 5 After all, this is how holy women who had confidence in God expressed their beauty in the past. They placed themselves under their husbands' authority 6 as Sarah did. Sarah obeyed Abraham and spoke to him respectfully. You became Sarah's daughters by not letting anything make you afraid to do good.

7 Husbands, in a similar way, live with your wives with understanding since they are weaker than you are. Honor your wives as those who share God's life-giving kindness so that nothing will interfere with your prayers.

- Ok let all feel sorry for Grant
 - Deby not here so grounds for trouble - don't ready anything into it
 - spies
 - will get there first with my version

Spent most of the week saying to God ummm

But lets make a couple of observations

first about you guys

1. singles easy to think this only connects to marriage
2. some of you come from terrible marriages - easy to get mad
3. easy to get mad you don't know my husband...
4. etc

Is the bible really saying things that sound unhealthy?

Now lets think first about who is he writing to..

1 Peter 1:1 (The Message) |, Peter, am an apostle on assignment by Jesus, the Messiah, writing to exiles scattered to the four winds. Not one is missing, not one forgotten.

Hes talking to people who's world have been turned upside down by a madman and this chapter start with a little phrase

- ...in a similar way..
- similar to what
- last week

this conversation starts in v 18, this is the danger of dropping in - can miss the context

- he's talking about living our lives like an open book
- ...by the way they live....
- he's said remember to honor the king - we talked about this last week

2:13 For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority

- You don't respect them because they deserve it.
- You respect them because the Lord has allowed them to serve you in that way.
- Its about the bigger picture
- We have for too long allowed current culture to shape our attitudes

Now lets deal with a couple of objectionable parts then have a look a one word

v 7 weaker than you are...

- easy to focus on this
- but who is he talking too
- what are there lives like
- what was the cultural expectations

These people mostly slaves or lower income people

have to work very hard just to have a life

- culture of the day woman did everything
- Peter is saying HUSBANDS - don't let culture shape your marriage
- they just did a 12 our shift straight now you want dinner cooked
- get off your butt and help - they aren't physically able to do this
- thats all he's saying

Going to talk about the single quality for relationships.

I Peter talks about a quality that's called submission.

- Usually that words trigger
- people hear doormat, abuse etc
- some hear subjugate - not the word

Place yourselves under

Be submissive

Military term

- Again offensive to people who have lived as they have

But what it means is in proper arrangement

- the bible does not teach that man is superior to woman
- it doe teach that we are different!
- that the differences means something but not what you think

its about sequences and roles not about status and rank

- 1is followed by 2 not 1 is better or more valuable than 2
- which is better 1 or 2 - bibles say 2?
- Jesus and God equal yet Jesus in sequence 2nd

Submission

Bible: Def having the courage to give up my rights to meet another person's needs.

- This ability to be unselfish in our relationships is one of the main ingredients to learning to live God's way.
- Submission means to put under

You don't submit to another person you put your rights & needs UNDER the priority of meeting someone else's needs.

Another words we could use is unselfish

There are three basic ways to live life:

- My way
- God's Way
- Someone else's Way

I can live life Someone else's Way doing what they say and because I want to make them happy; I'm just doing it because I have to; I'm subjected, down under them.

Or I can live life My Way doing what I want because I want to. That means I'm up above everybody else, trying to be at best.

Peter says, neither of these are what works. Do it God's way.

Peter talks about two very basic things about unselfishness:

I. WHY SHOULD I BE UNSELFISH

Three powerful reasons for us being unselfish in our lives:

1. Be unselfish because selfishness is the source of conflict.

"Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that war with you." James 4:1 (NCV)

It's the source of conflict in our home.

What's the root cause of nearly all conflict

- Some of you have been in marriages/relationships that are in tatters because of this dynamic
- It's so hard to live with someone who only sees their needs as the priority all the time

this key to unselfishness can make a difference

BTW is there ever a time when selfish is ok?

Yes - babies - just looks ugly in adults

2. Because unselfishness is the secret to change.

"...so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives," 1 Peter 3:1 (NIV)

Change is important in any relationship. It's natural, it's healthy to want to change in our relationships.

- That's what growth is all about.
- Even if you've got a great relationship, you should want it to change and develop. If you're really struggling in your relationship, of course you're desperate for change to begin to happen.

HOW do we make change happen?

How many of you have tried to push or argue somebody into making a change?

How many of you have found that that does not work? What does work to help people to change?

- Unselfishness. It is the most powerful tool that we have at our disposal to encourage other people to grow and to change.
- Jesus was the most unselfish person who ever walked the face of this earth.
- look at the change he has implemented

In your own life, who's had the most impact on you when it comes to change in your life. Selfish people?

- It's been people who have acted unselfishly towards you who've been people who have helped you to grow and to change.
- Unselfishness is the secret to change.

3. A third reason why we should be unselfish is that selfishness short circuits prayer.

I Peter 3:7 "Do this so that nothing will stop your prayers."

The way that I act towards others affects my relationship to God.

- You can do it your way, using your selfish energy or you can do it God's way, depending upon His boundless energy.
- Selfishness at its very core says "I'm depending on myself."
- Prayer at its very core is saying, "I'm depending on God."

II. HOW CAN I BE UNSELFISH?

1. Understanding: Consider other's needs.

I Peter 3:7 "In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives in an understanding way..."

The word "understanding" doesn't just mean kind.

- It literally means, "to live together according to knowledge."
- Unselfishness begins when you and I ask "What do they need?"
- This is to be a part of all our relationships, this attitude.

Phil. 4:5 "Let everyone see that you are unselfishness and considerate in all that you do."

How? How do you start to care more about the needs of other people?

1. The basic needed skill is called listening.

This is something I have certainly struggled with.

When deb and I were first married I wasn't a very good listener. Some bits of advice about developing the skill of listening:

- a. Listening is both hard work and doesn't come naturally
- b. Listen to understand not with the intent of reply
- c. Men - yep you have to hear the whole story let them tell it their way
- d. Stay in the room - don't wander off in your mind

2. Honoring Other People's Value.

"But show them respect, because God gives them the same blessing he gives you - the grace that gives true life."

I Pet. 3:7 (NCV)

Ephesians 5, = *"Show your husbands respect."*

Respect is a reciprocal thing -- the ability to see and honor the value of somebody else..

"When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves." Phil. 2:3 (NCV)

This does not say not to honor yourself.

- It doesn't say to pretend that you aren't valuable or that you don't have needs.

It just says to give more honor to others

- We use the word appreciate when it comes to financial things to mean something goes up in value.
- We need to do that with people, appreciate them, to raise their value in our eyes.

3. Sacrifice: The Willingness to Act on Another's Behalf.

There's a huge difference between unselfish words and unselfish actions.

It's easy to talk, to plan unselfish things, but unselfish action involves sacrifice.

1 John 3:18 "Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions."

This is where most of us struggle. It's easy to say "I want to meet your needs."

- It's easy to say "I value you and I love you deeply with all my heart."
- That makes us feel good.
- Sacrificial talk makes us feel good.

It's sacrificial actions that scare us to death.

We're sort of like this when it comes to sacrifice.

- We say "I love you enough to die for you, just don't make me give up my xxxxxxxx."
- But that's where sacrifice really works -- the little things.

1 Cor. 13:5 says "Love does not demand its own way."

- It makes sacrifices.
- The challenge is not to be ready for the one big sacrifice you may have to be ready to make someday in a relationship.
- The challenge is to constantly make the little ones.

Fear drives us to be selfish

1 John 4:18 (The Message) There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

In order to overcome fear of selfishness and unselfishness in your relationships all you have to do is find somebody who will love you perfectly.

- Someone already does love you perfectly.
- Jesus Christ.
- I've found that His perfect love for me builds a foundation of strength and security in my life that enables me to begin to love other people unselfishly.

1 Peter 1:22 (The Living Bible) Now you can have real love for everyone because your souls have been cleansed from selfishness and hatred when you trusted Christ to save you; so see to it that you really do love each other warmly, with all your hearts.

- God has given us a new strength and power to love people in a new way we never could have before.
- Imagine the power of an unselfish life
 - No one can ever take anything from you - its willingly given
 - such power and freedom come from this place
 - Jesus showed us that

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- Now imagine with me a community of people