



## The Essentials: 1 and 2 Peter

### Session 4

#### 1 Peter 2: 13 – 3:12

#### Opening Collect

*Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

#### Watch Video

#### Read: 1 Peter 2: 13 – 3:12

#### Discussion:

1. How might these so-called “household codes” relate to Peter’s earlier writing about Christians being “a spiritual house” (v. 5), “a chosen race” (v. 9), and “sojourners and exiles” (v. 11)? Discuss the context of our current verses.
2. What do you think the overall purpose of these household codes might be?
3. Is it surprising to you that Peter needs to tell Christians to be obedient to authorities? Why would he need to give them such a command in the first place?
4. A major theme of these verses is being subject to one another. What does that phrase mean to you? What does it mean that Christ was subject to us?
5. In a parallel passage to 1 Peter 3:1-7, Scripture tells spouses to mutually be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5: 21). What are specific ways for Christians to be subject to one another? How many you put that in practice?

#### Check in and Closing Prayer

## 1 Peter 2:13 – 3:12

<sup>13</sup> For the Lord's sake be subject to every human authority, whether to the emperor as supreme <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. <sup>16</sup> As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

<sup>18</sup> Slaves, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only those who are good and gentle but also those who are dishonest. <sup>19</sup> For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**3** Wives, in the same way, be subject to your husbands, so that, even if some of them do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct, <sup>2</sup> when they see the purity and respect of your conduct. <sup>3</sup> Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; <sup>4</sup> rather, let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God's sight. <sup>5</sup> It was in this way long ago that the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves by being subject to their husbands. <sup>6</sup> Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good and never let fears alarm you.

<sup>7</sup> Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together, paying honor to the woman—though the weaker vessel, they are joint heirs of the gracious gift of life—so that nothing may hinder your prayers.<sup>8</sup>

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse, but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For

"Those who desire to love life  
and to see good days,

let them keep their tongues from evil  
and their lips from speaking deceit;

<sup>11</sup> let them turn away from evil and do good;  
let them seek peace and pursue it.

<sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."