

## Lesson 5

### 1 Peter 2: 11 – 25, 3: 1-7

#### Submission Glorifies God

**Memory verse:** “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (1 Peter 2:2-3 NIV)

The central section of Peter’s letter in this passage emphasizes *submission* in the life of a believer. This is certainly not a popular topic in this day of lawlessness and the quest for “personal fulfillment,” but it is an important one. Peter applied the theme of submission to the life of a believer as a citizen (1 Peter 2:11–17), a worker (1 Peter 2:18–25) and a marriage partner (1 Peter 3:1–7).

Submission does not mean slavery or subjugation but simply the recognition of God’s authority in our lives. God has established the home, human government, and the church, and He has the right to tell us how these institutions should be run. God wants each of us to exercise authority, but before we can *exercise* authority, we must be *under* authority. Satan’s offer to our first parents was freedom without authority, but they ended up losing both freedom and authority. The Prodigal Son found his freedom when he yielded to his father’s will.

It is easy to see how the pursuit of fleshly lusts can destroy our physical body. Just ask the alcoholic dying of liver disease, or ask the sexually immoral person with AIDS or one of the 350,000 people on this earth who contracted a sexually transmitted disease in the last 24 hours. But Peter reminds us that fleshly lusts also *war against the soul*. Some escape disease in the physical body when they sin, but the disease and death of the inner man is a penalty that no one given over to the flesh escapes.

We must know that God also uses governing authorities as a check upon man’s sinful desires and tendencies. Governments are a useful tool in resisting the effects of man’s fallen nature. Based also on what Paul wrote in Romans 13, we can say that the greatest offense government can make is to fail to punish evildoers, or to reward evildoers through corruption.

Then, we should also be aware that a strange situation exists in society today. We have more readily available information about sex and marriage than ever before, yet we have more marital problems and divorces. Obviously something is wrong. It is not sufficient to say that God is needed in these homes, because even many *Christian* marriages are falling apart.

The fact that a man and a woman are both saved is no guarantee that their marriage will succeed. Marriage is something that we have to work at; success is not automatic. And when one marriage partner is not a Christian, that can make matters even more difficult.

In this lesson, we will find out what Peter shared with his readers on some excellent motives for submitting to authority and thus living dedicated, obedient Christian lives. Not only that, we will find that Peter also addressed this section of his letter to Christian wives who had unsaved husbands, telling them how to win their mates to Christ. Then he added some important admonitions for Christian husbands. No matter what your marital status may be, you can learn from Peter the essentials for a happy and successful marriage.

To learn in this lesson: 1) Submission as citizen and worker 2) Jesus’ Submission 3) Biblical Submission in Marriage

#### Discussion Questions:

1). Examine verses 11 to 25 and apply Peter’s encouragements for believers to live godly lives as citizens and workers in the world today.

2). How did Peter in verses 21 to 25 direct believers to the suffering and submissive Son of God, Jesus Christ to be good witnesses in spite of their circumstances?

3). Will submission makes marriage a “wedlock” or “deadlock”? What does God tells us about marriages in 1 Peter 3: 1- 7?