

Summary Notes

1 Peter 2:12-3:7

- After Peter telling us that we should live 'good lives' he now gives us a number of ways in which we can do that.
- The main theme of this section of the letter is submission – that is submission in society (v.13-21) and then submission in the family (3:1-7) with Christ's example in the centre (v.22-25)
- Peter tells us that we should submit to 'every authority', this means we can't pick and choose which ones we want to obey. He also points out that because we are 'free men' that does not exempt us from the laws and authorities put in place.
- It is fair enough telling the readers that they need to submit but this could seem somewhat legalistic if it wasn't for the fact that Peter gives a whole list of reasons for doing so: 'glorify God' (v.12), 'for the Lord's sake' (v.13), 'silence the ignorant talk' (v.15), 'live as servants of God' (v.16), 'commendable before God.' (v.20), 'follow in his [Christ's] steps (v.21) 'they may be won over' (3:1)
- Peter includes Christ's example of submission as an illustration of what ultimate submission looks like. However, we must remember that Christ's submission is different to ours in the fact that His submission achieved our salvation, whereas our submission does not achieve our salvation.
- Peter looks next at the submission of wives and husbands. Here we must look in context and also see how we can apply it to ourselves.
- 'In the same way' (v.1 and v.7) show that the women need to submit like Christ and that men need to submit like the women, which is like Christ.
- The women should submit so that their husbands may see their actions (which back up the word) and may be won over.
- Women should value what God values – inner beauty
- 'Gentle and quiet spirit' – one which puts up with impositions of others without causing any herself.
- Men should be considerate and treat wives with respect and honour.
- 'Weaker partner' – think in context they were the weaker partner; also physically it tends to be that men are stronger. However spiritually men and women are equal 'as heirs. . . gracious gift of life.' (v.12)

How does Peter help us to stand firm in our faith from this letter?

How does this passage challenge our view of submission and what are we going to do about it?