

RELATED SCRIPTURES

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 5.28.23

Ephesians 5:17-28 | Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 | Romans 13:1-7

SUMMARY

To this point, in his letter to the church, Peter has been building a case. One might summarize Peter's argument as, "In light of all you are in Christ, honor and submit to one another, and honor the authorities God has placed in your life." In other words, our impetus for honoring authority is born out of our identity in Christ. From here, Peter outlines a cascading line of authority, starting with the government, then the workplace, and finally into the household. Another critical theme in which Peter underlies his appeals to honor authority gives us a partial rationale for why he provides the church with this instruction. We honor authority in the government, the workplace, and the household—as imperfect as they are—because they are still *reflections* of God; we submit to the authority over us, and in so doing, we bear witness to the authority of God himself. In modern society, there can be a tendency to view authority with skepticism. However, authority only produces a negative result when misused, which is undoubtedly true when a husband misuses his authority in the home. In God's economy, authority has no room for selfishness—it is protective and sacrificial. Therefore, household authority rooted in selfishness is a misuse of it—a poor *reflection* of God's authority over creation. The perfect reflection of God's authority is in Jesus Christ, who has the same essence as the Father, yet willingly submitted himself to the work of the Father and gave his life for the church. Jesus, the most powerful, authoritative man the world has ever known, never sought selfish gain. This is the "unity of mind" to which Peter calls wives and husbands. God calls wives to submit *as Christ submitted* and husbands to love *as Christ loved*—everyone doing as Christ has done. The result *reflects* the work of Christ—full of "sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind" (v. 8).

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of 1 Peter 3:1-8.

What are some problems people inside and outside the church have with authority? Has our modern understanding of authority shaped our thoughts of submitting to authority in the government, the church, the workplace, or our homes?

What does authority in the household look like, as outlined in 1 Peter 3? How might the husband-wife relationship ideally work out in decision-making while upholding what Peter details for the church?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.