

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Peter 3:1-7**  
**Lesson #13**  
**Mates**  
**11/01/2020**

## 1 Peter 3

"1 In the same way, you **wives**, be **submissive** to your own husbands so that even if any of them are **disobedient** to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and **respectful** behavior.

## Ephesians 5

"22 **Wives**, be **subject to your own husbands**, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the **head** of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands **in everything**."



1

In what kind of civilized world can this "sexist teaching" ever make sense and not be degrading, abusive, and unfair?

It challenges the very core of Western culture's values.

- **Social justice** - Roles in a just society should be achieved, not ascribed by gender, race, religion, etc.
- **Pragmatic efficiency** - Ability (gifts) should determine roles and position, not gender.
- **Psychological health** - Self worth is linked to freedom to compete for social position, respect, and power.
- **Human rights** - Individuals are to be responsible and free to determine their own roles and positions in life.

2

## Gender based roles in marriage

- This has been the historic understanding of Apostolic teaching.
- This is the general pattern throughout Scripture.
- This has been the church's practice for nearly all of its history.
- **This has been one of the great stumbling blocks for the Gospel in the modern era.**

because

**It has been the occasion for abuse.**



3

**When you take male objectivity (which depersonalizes), and female subjectivity (which personalizes) and express them through an insecure, immature, and unrenewed soul**

**you get**

# **GENDER WARS**

**- abusive chauvinists and defensive rebels**

4

## What is America's Original Sin?

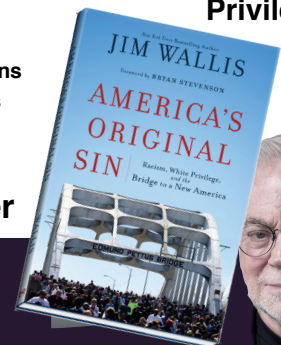
What do these events share in common?

Racism & White Privilege?


Enslavement of African Americans  
Conquest of Native Americans  
American Revolution

The Christian Life according to 1 Peter

Stories of **privilege, submission, & suffering.**



5



# 1 Peter

*Operations Manual for Alien Ambassadors in a fallen world*

This is who we are "in Christ"

This is how we should express our identity

	Indicative	Imperative					
"chosen"	Salvation	Sanctification	In the church		Shepherding		
Introduction	Chosen	Privileged	Submission	Suffering		Conclusion	
"aliens"		In the world					
	1:1-2	1:3-12	1:13-2:12	2:13-3:12	3:13-4:19	5:1-11	5:12-14

Christians are called out of the world — and then sent back into the world.

6

## Context

### How are Christians to see their relationship to God?

1 Peter 2

"9 But you are **a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession,**

so that

you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

Christians are to be privileged proclaimers.

7

## Context

### How are Christians to see their relationship to the world?

1 Peter 2

"11 Beloved, I urge you as **aliens and strangers** to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 **Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles,**

so that

in the things in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, **as they observe them glorify God . . .**

Christians are to lay aside their privilege for the "Way of the Cross".

8

## Context

### How are Christians to see their relationship to Christ?

1 Peter 2

"21 For you have been called for this purpose, since **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,** 22 *who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;* 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but **kept entrusting Himself to Him** who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,

so that


we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and **Guardian of your souls.**

Christians are to follow Christ's example.

9

Mark 8:34

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must **deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.**"




1 Corinthians 1:18

"For the **word of the cross** is to those who are perishing **foolishness,** but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God.**"

10

Philippians 2

"5 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,** 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,** 7 but **emptied Himself,** taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**"



The Way of the Cross will distinguish Jesus' followers as aliens and sojourners in America.


11

## Specific applications

1 Peter 2:13

“**Submit yourselves** for the Lord’s sake to every human institution,”

### Application 103



Submitting to magistrates	Submitting to masters	Submitting to mates	Summary
2:13-17	2:18-25	3:1-7	3:8-12

Like Jesus, his disciples  
are to be comfortable with

## Submission

as it is the “Way of the Cross.”

12

1 Peter 3

“1 In the same way, you **wives**, be submissive to your own husbands

so that

even if any of them are **disobedient** to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your **chaste** and **respectful** behavior.

**Christian wives are to  
mentor husbands in the way  
of the Cross through their  
chastity and respect.**

13

“3 And let not your adornment be merely external - braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who **hoped in God**, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. 6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.”

- **Submission is to be from the heart and not superficial.**
- **Submission is not a response to fear but rather an expression of our faith in the face of fear.**

14

1 Peter 3

“7 You **husbands likewise**, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker (**vulnerable** 2 Cor.10:10) vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life,

so that

your prayers may not be hindered.”

2 Corinthians 10:10

“For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is **weak**, and his speech contemptible.””

15

1 Peter 3

“7 You **husbands likewise**, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker (**vulnerable** 2 Cor.10:10) vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life,

so that

your prayers may not be hindered.”

**Christian husbands are to  
connect with their wives in  
ways that show understanding  
and grant honor.**

16

**The sacrifice the husbands are asked  
to make for their wives is greater than  
the sacrifice that wives are asked to  
make in submitting to their husbands.**

- The wife’s submission involves trusting God and overcoming fear as she yields to her mate, **while her husband is asked to answer to God as he bears responsibility for his priestly role in the family.**
- The husband is asked to **model his life after Christ** in a way the wife is not.
- The **husband needs the support of his wife** if he is to fulfill his calling and vice versa.

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**Before we apply this teaching  
we must embrace four truths.**

1. The sense of **security and significance** that every believer has “in Christ”.
2. Social roles tend to reflect **cultural values**.
 

Technological Western culture  most roles are achieved  individual autonomy	Traditional Biblical culture  some roles are assigned  community connection
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3. The “Way of the Cross” will be **counter cultural**.
4. The witness of the **marriage and family**.

18

## The “family” is a theme in Scripture

- God is called “**Father**”, we are His “**children**”.
- The Old Testament is the story of a family whose father was **Abraham**.
- Members of the church are called “**brothers & sisters**”.
- The core of family are **husband and wife**.
  - ✓ Heaven is pictured as a “**marriage feast**”.
  - ✓ The church is called the “**bride of Christ**”.
  - ✓ The relationship of husband and wife is a picture of “**Christ and the church**”.

**Marriage showcases  
the “Way of the Cross.”**

19

The homemaker has the ultimate career. All other careers exist for one purpose only - and that is to support the ultimate career.”

C.S. Lewis



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## Family “facts”

- Experiments to replace the family have not proven successful.
- Families throughout history have been patriarchal.
- Dysfunctional families are a chief source of social dysfunction in a society.
- Families are fragile and need the support of a broader community.
- Christians have made both good and bad contributions to family health.

21

If God created man and woman as distinct and complementary, to reveal something about his image (Gen.1:27)

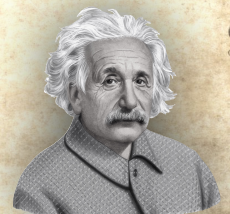
**we should think twice  
before we try to  
disestablish it.**

22

“Men marry women with the hope they will never change. Women marry men with the hope they will change.

Invariably  
they are both  
disappointed.”

Albert Einstein



23



“Women are concerned about what men will forget. Men are concerned about what women will remember.”

Princess Diana



24

“Husbands and wives tend to have expectations of marriage that are too high and commitments to marriage that are too low.”

Larry Crabb  
(clinical psychologist)



25

### Three common *misperceptions*.

- **Defining power** positionally, freedom politically, and happiness materially.
- **Confusing authority** (in one sphere) with **superiority** (in all spheres).
- **Failing** to see marriage as two individuals becoming **one flesh**.



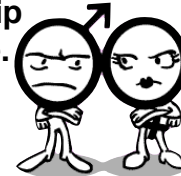
**Refusing to embrace both our spiritual dignity & alien status.**

26

### The most common *abuses*.

**Insecure men** who equate headship with superiority and leadership with privilege.

Rather than sanctifying, completing, and listening to women, they **abuse and dishonor** them.



**Wounded women** who equate role with worth and position with freedom /power.

Rather than helping men fulfill their difficult calling with respectful support, they seek their own fulfillment through **independence**.

27

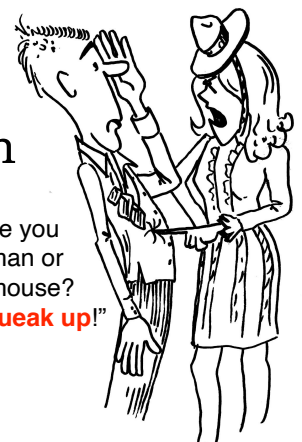
“When people try to bring you down it probably means that they see themselves as weak and you as above them.”



“How can we be one when **YOU'RE** not equal?”

28

“The only thing worse than a man you can't control is a man you can.”



“Are you a man or a mouse?  
**Squeak up!**”



Jean Kerr  
(author)

29

1 Peter 2:13

“**Submit yourselves** for the Lord’s sake to every human institution,”

**A good test  
of a servant’s heart is  
how he or she responds  
when treated  
like one.**

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**EWTN**  
GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

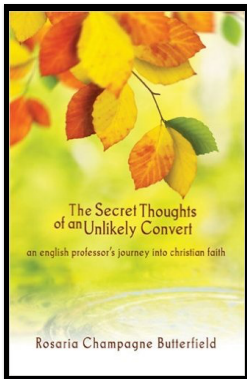
As a powerful woman, how do you respond to those who say that women are not free to be ordained in the Catholic Church?

“Power in the Kingdom of God is love. I don’t need a position or a title to exercise that power.”

Agnes Mary Donovan  
Superior General, Sisters of Life



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“The Scripture clearly asks disciples of Jesus to lose their old life in order to find their new life. I had to ask what must I give up to know him and myself?”

Dr. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield

lesbian,  
former postmodern, feminist,  
English professor



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### Possible analogy

The husband is like the **point guard** on a basketball team.



- He is first and foremost a member of a **team**.
- He need **not be the most valuable** player or even the most gifted leader on the team.
- He is assigned the role of **initiating** play.
- He may **not be the only one who initiates** play.
- The team is “his team” because **he represents it** and is responsible for its proper functioning.

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### Possible analogy

The wife is like any other **player** on a basketball team.



- She is first and foremost a member of a **team**.
- Her primary role is not to initiate play or lead the team but to **execute play using her strengths**.
- She may be the most valuable player and the “**behind the scenes**” leader.
- She gets great **satisfaction and honor from her work** in enabling the team to function successfully.

34

“Gender roles are not so much dictated by rules as by relationships built on a shared understanding of the **Body of Christ** and commitment to the “**Way of the Cross.**”

35



The greatest challenge that most of us face  
with respect to this issue.

### **Taking our baptism seriously**

- Taking our position in Christ seriously
- Taking our alien status seriously

*Will we submit to a worldly culture  
or to the Way of the Cross?*



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More teachings on gender and ethics:

**[apptoteach.org](http://apptoteach.org)**

**Theology** #407, 408, 413

**Hot Topics**

**Christian Ethics**

Especially Lessons #20-24

**Bible Insights**

**1 Corinthians**

Especially 11:1-16, 14:34-36

**Ephesians**

Especially Lessons #35-37, 41

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