**Reading 1 Peter in 2020**

University Baptist Church – Online Bible Study

Session 7: May 31, 2020

**To prepare:** This week we focus on 1 Peter 3:1-12, a passage that begins with instruction regarding marital relationships and then broadens to address everyone. As you prepare for our session, we invite you to read through 1 Peter—the entire book if you can take the time, and especially today’s passage. As with the latter part of chapter 2, there is a notable distance between the original cultural context of this passage and our own context today. When we take care to read thoughtfully, what wisdom does this passage teach us about how to act faithfully in our relationships? What type of life does this describe? Where does this passage challenge you?

**Sunday morning session outline:**

**Introduction** – (Themes: God, Christ, Suffering, Baptism, & Life in Exile)

**Read 1 Peter 3:1-12**

**3:1-6 “Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands, so that…”**

* Describing how wives might influence their non-Christian husbands, what effect is a wife’s conduct (“purity and reverence”) intended to have?
* In our culture, which also glamorizes external beauty, how do we aim for the inner beauty described in verse 4? For men and women, how do we resist internalizing cultural values about how our bodies “should” look?
* Peter looks to Sarah as an example, again making reference to the Old Testament. Why does Peter keep making these connections? Are there particular figures in the Bible that we turn to as a model for our lives?
* Taken as a whole, how do we read these verses and apply them in our lives, when our understanding of gender dynamics is much different than these?
* Similar to Peter’s instruction that slaves obey their masters, is there a subtle, internal freedom and agency that is maintained in the instruction for wives to accept the authority of their husbands?
* How would it impact the way we read this passage if we replace the word, “Wives,” with “Spouses”? It would be, “Spouses, in the same way, accept the authority of your spouses, so that…”

**3:7 “Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together”**

* When women are described the “weaker sex” or “weaker vessel,” is this a description of women’s inherent qualities or their status in society?
* Even in this patriarchal context, Peter insists that wives “are also heirs of the gracious gift of life.” How does keeping this in mind help us relate to others in our relationships?
* What is the significance of the closing phrase: “so that nothing may hinder your prayers”?
* What does this section teach us about how to behave in situations where the power dynamics put us on top?
* Again, consider this: “Spouses, in the same way, show consideration of your spouse in your life together.” How does that impact our interpretation?

**3:8-12 “Finally, all of you…”**

* After addressing slaves, wives, and husbands, Peter now addresses all members of the household together. How does this summation illuminate the preceding instructions?
* Verse 12 makes interesting connections between righteousness and prayer. Are our prayers undercut when we do evil? Is right action a part of faithful prayer?
* Compare 3:10-12 with Psalm 34:12-16. How is it the same? Are there any differences? What does Psalm 34 sound like in Peter’s context?