

1 Peter 3:1-7

Lexham English Bible (LEB)

1 ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge *you* as foreigners and temporary
2 residents to abstain from fleshly desires which wage war
3 against your soul, ¹² maintaining your good conduct among the
4 Gentiles, so that in *the things* in which they slander you as
5 evildoers, by seeing your good deeds they may glorify God on
6 the day of visitation.

7 ^{2:13} Subject yourselves to every human authority for the sake of
8 the Lord, whether to a king ... ¹⁴ or to governors ¹⁵ For the
9 will of God is as follows: *by* doing good to silence the
10 ignorance of foolish people.

11 ^{2:18} Domestic slaves, be subject to your masters with all respect,
12 ^{2:21} For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered
13 for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in
14 his footsteps, ²² who did not commit sin, nor was deceit found
15 in his mouth, ²³ who *when he* was reviled, did not revile in
16 return; *when* suffering, he did not threaten, but entrusted
17 *himself* to the one who judges justly, ²⁴ who himself bore our
18 sins in his body on the tree, so that *we* may die to sins *and* live
19 to righteousness, by whose wounds you were healed. ²⁵ For you
20 were going astray like sheep, but you have turned back now to
21 the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

22 **3** In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so
23 that even if some are disobedient to the word, they may be won
24 over without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² *when they*
25 see your respectful, pure conduct. ³ Let your adornment not be
26 the external *kind*, braiding hair and putting on gold jewelry or
27 putting on *fine* clothing, ⁴ but the hidden person of the heart,
28 with the imperishable *quality* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which
29 is highly valuable in the sight of God. ⁵ For in the *same* way
30 formerly the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to
31 adorn themselves *by* being subject to their own husbands, ⁶ like
32 Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose children you
33 have become *when you* do good and are not frightened with
34 respect to any terror.

35 ⁷ Husbands, in the same way live with *your wives*
36 *knowledgeably*, as with the weaker female vessel, showing
37 *them* honor as fellow heirs also of the grace of life, so that your
38 prayers will not be hindered.

Use the excerpts from the previous passage to set the context as you read Peter's instructions.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Who is addressed ... who is affected?
2:11-12 Dear friends...Gentiles
2:13-15
2:18-28
3:1-6
3:7

- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- Do you think there should be a paragraph break at 2:21, "For to this you were called, ..." Why or why not?
- What is Peter pointing to with the words "In the same way" (3:1, 3:7)?
- What significance is there (if any) in the order of groups or individuals Peter addresses?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

For additional thought and discussion:

Where in Scripture did Sarah call Abraham “lord” as mentioned in 1 Peter 3:6?

¹⁰ [One of three visitors] said, “I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. ¹² Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, **my lord** being old also?” ¹³ And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.” ¹⁵ Sarah denied it however, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. And He said, “No, but you did laugh.” Genesis 18:10-12

Any thoughts on the context of this scene and Sarah calling Abraham “lord”?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.