**FOCUS** in 2020

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**THRIVE –** *A Study of 1 Peter*

***Marriage on Mission – 1 Peter 3:1-7***



Robert Louis Stevenson was an accomplished writer back in the 19th century who had a way with words. He once saw some men lighting the oil-filled lanterns that served as street lamps, and exclaimed to his Nanny, “look they’re punching holes in the darkness.” His words actually capture the mission of every Christian: To join God in “punching holes in the darkness” of our world.

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.* **Matthew 5:14-16**

Unfortunately, there is something in us that hides the light of Christ   
in our lives. If we let it reign, it keeps us from punching holes in the darkness with God.

Our **self-centeredness**

Our self-centeredness is our **soul’s** worst enemy.

*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not* ***submit*** *to God's law; indeed, it cannot.* **Romans 8:7**

If we are to join God on mission of punching holes in the darkness, Christians are called to a different mindset. We are told to have …

A **mindset** of submission.

***Have this mind among yourselves****, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though* ***he was in the form of God****, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but* ***made himself nothing****, taking* ***the form of a servant****, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he* ***humbled himself by becoming obedient*** *to the point of death, even death on a cross.*  **Philippians 2:5-8**

As we become more like Christ, our submission grows.   
In other words …

Spiritual **maturity** deepens our submission**.**

In a dark world full of self-centeredness, the apostle Peter exhorts Christians to a life of submission in all the places we find ourselves.

Submission helps **win** others to Christ.

In 1 Peter 3, Peter addresses wives and husbands …

**A charge to the wife:**

*Likewise, wives, be* ***subject*** *to your* ***own******husbands****…* **1 Peter 3:1a**

The husband is the ­head – Ephesians 5:23

The wife is the body - Ephesians 5:28

*…****so that*** *even if some do not obey the word,* ***they may be won******without a word*** *by the* ***conduct of their wives****, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.*  **1 Peter 3:1b-2**

Do not be your husband’s prosecutor; be his **witness**.

“Your role is to submit to your husband; it’s God’s job to make him good.” - **Ruth Graham**

***Do not let your adorning be external****—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but* ***let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart*** *with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,* ***which in God's sight is very precious.*** **1 Peter 3:3-4**

Good news: Lasting beauty is within reach!

Your inner **disposition** of a gentle and quiet spirit is more valuable than your outward appearance.

The word *gentle* is also translated as *meek*.

Meekness is not **weakness**!

*Meekness is the silent submission of the soul to the “providence” of God concerning us*. - **Matthew Henry**

Quiet - “tranquil,” being steadfast in your assurance of God’s good in your life. Calm and undisturbed ... no matter what is happening around you.

*For this is how the holy women* ***who******hoped in God*** *used to adorn themselves,* ***by submitting to their own husbands****, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.* **1 Peter 3:5-6**

Holy women:

1. Hope in God
2. Adorn themselves in submission
3. Have no fear

**A charge to the husband:**

*Likewise,* ***husbands****, live with your wives* ***in an understanding way****,* ***showing honor*** *to the woman* ***as the weaker vessel*** *…*

**1 Peter 3:7a**

To live with understanding starts by understanding your **place**.

**Understanding** - to have knowledge

**Vessel** - body

**Weaker** - precious

*…since* ***they are heirs with you*** *of the grace of life,* ***so that*** *your prayers may not be hindered.* **1 Peter 3:7b**

Husbands and wives are spiritual **equals**.

God even builds protection for the woman to be treated as a spiritual equal, that when a husband is not living with his wife in understanding or showing her honor, his prayers are hindered before God.

**Be enlightened,** punch holes in the darkness**. How?**

1. Submit your **self-centeredness** to Jesus.
2. Submit to your **role.**
3. Let your marriage reflect the beauty of **Jesus** and His **Bride**.

*Friends, this world is not your home, so don’t make yourselves cozy in it. Don’t indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they’ll be won over to God’s side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives.* **1 Peter 2:11-12**