



St Margaret's Church

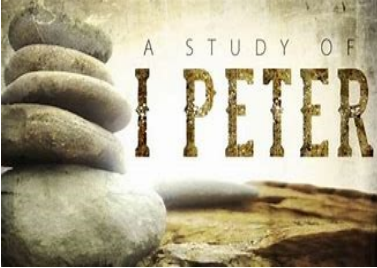
Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

In Contact

13TH OCTOBER 2024

1 PETER 3. 1-7

WIVES AND HUSBANDS



As a married man, Bible teaching on wives and husbands feels like walking into a minefield. In 1 Peter 3, Peter expects wives to be subservient. *“Accept the authority of your husbands”* (v.1). *“Don’t adorn yourselves outwardly”* (v.3). Be like Sarah who called Abraham *“lord”*. (v.6). And when he does turn to the husbands (v.7), he can’t resist lobbing in the fact that women are the *“weaker sex [or vessel]”*

Taken out of context, these words do raise hackles in our society today. What would those words have meant to the wives and husbands of Peter’s time? Research has shown that what Peter was advocating was very counter cultural. The acceptance of a husband’s authority was about winning them over to follow the way of Jesus. Not adorning themselves pointed to not following the ways of women around them who liked to show off their wealth in what they were wearing. Peter hopes that, by not focussing on their outer beauty, their inner beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit (v.4) would become visible.

For the husbands, he is calling them to show consideration and honour to their wives as those sharing in the inheritance of Jesus. This was also counter cultural where women were treated more like possessions. When Peter refers to them as the *“weaker sex”*, he is voicing the fact that, in general, women are not as physically strong as men. Having been at the birth of both of our children (which I imagine was not done in Peter’s time), I would never dream of referring to women as the weaker sex. Peter is calling for a partnership of equals marked with mutual honouring but he does see that there are differences in roles and gender.

Where these words come in the flow of the letter is also important. Peter has reminded us of our living hope in Jesus who was raised from the dead. He has called us to holy living which involves being living stones and becoming the chosen people of God. He then refers to his readers as *“aliens”* and *“exiles”* (2. 11) reminding them that we should not conform to the pattern of this world (Romans 12.2). His thoughts then turn to our relationships with those around us. I am sure that the *“in the same way”* in 1 Peter 3.1 does not refer to the example of Jesus cited at the end of chapter 2, but back to the slaves in 1 Peter 2.18.

Peter is challenging us to be living stones in God’s temple by being counter-cultural in our relationships. He focuses on the relationship between slaves and masters and wives and husbands, but we could apply this to all our closest relationships, especially with those who do not know the Lord yet? Wouldn’t it be wonderful if by the way we treat them, they would see the inner beauty that is Jesus in us? Our relationships should be counter-cultural and transformative.

This article has been approved by my wife!



Matt Calladine

Bible Verse for 2024: 1 Peter 2:5

“..You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house... acceptable to God” .

This Week– Sunday 13th October 2024:

Holy Communion at 10.30am. Matt will be preaching from 1 Peter 3. 1-7 on the theme: **‘Wives and Husbands’.**

BCP Communion at 3pm

Hearing Loop: We now have a temporary solution which gives us some sound for the hearing loop. Please continue to bear with us while we get it back to normal performance. Thank you very much.



Next Week 20th October 2024:

Family Communion at 10.30am. Alan Pugmire will be preaching from 1 Peter 3. 8-22 on the theme: **‘Suffering for Doing Right’.**

October 13th to 19th, Please Pray for: .

- People living in Crossley Rd, Hawthorn Dr, Redthorn Av, Whitethorn Av & Blackthorn Av.
- Helpful Clergy training day at Cathedral about preaching on Monday for Matt.
- Matt as he helps at Acacias harvest service on Monday.
- Matt to meet with God & be touched by the Holy Spirit on retreat this week.
- Church in Nigeria & Burkina Faso under attack.
- A warm welcome to all who attend church.
- The work “The Message” does in Canada, Germany & South Africa.
- Need of motorbikes for IEM mission workers in rural India.

Looking Ahead:

Review of giving to Charities by church: if you are interested in being in a small task group to review this, then please see Angela Stansfield.

Light Party: On 31st October, 5-6.30pm for families with under 12s, 7-8.30pm for youth (12+).

Remembrance Sunday: On 10th November, meet at the lychgate at 10.15am.

Annual Memorial Service: 17th November at 3pm.

If you are visiting St Margaret's for the first time we hope you will enjoy worshipping with us today.

For more information please visit our website: www.stmargaretsburnage.org.uk

Come and join us for tea or coffee after the service.



MOST NEEDED: Please concentrate on Long life milk, Long life fruit juice, Chicken, Corned Beef and Ham plus some Sugar.