

October 25, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: “The Wonderful Married Relationship”

—Husbands and Wives—

Text: 1 Peter 3:1~7

3:1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,

3: 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

3: 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—

3: 4 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.

3: 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,

3: 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.

3: 7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Introduction

Peter recorded that Jewish Christians in those days (about 2000 years ago) lived a blessed life as God’s People even though they had various hardships.

Peter took up married relationships as the next theme. The married relationship seems the most mysterious among human relationships. Two persons who are **total strangers** meet at a certain time and place. A married life starts with their encounter whether it is for love or by arrangement or accidental (It doesn’t happen, though.)

Then, they share everything they have through their lives on their own responsibility. If things go wrong, there is nothing more dangerous than the married life.

Dr. Grant Mullen, an American psychiatrist, writes about the married life.

“We want to meet a person who teaches us meaning to live and of identity, someone who gives love and accepts. Of course, it is quite impossible to find such a person. We plunge into a married life by carrying loads of the past. Each person thinks he/she is correct and his/her spouse is not normal. As a result, their relationship falls into great confusion.”

My friends. Such a married life clearly deviates from the married life that God intended. The married life that God decided is very different from the one we see.

< Dr. Grant Mullen >

By the way, the beginning of Chapter 3 records the word **likewise**, what does likewise mean? It means that it is based on the preceding chapter. Peter taught the blessed life is to walk with Jesus Christ who was **the Shepherd of souls**. Likewise, the marital relationship is like that.

I think **the married relationship** is the smallest unit and the closet relationship. What does it mean? It means to put our relationship with God into practice in this world. Therefore, we see our own reflection (as a servant of God) in **the married relationship**.

In today's text, Peter points two things for husbands and wives.

Main Points

1. Wives

Firstly, I would like to mention that today's Scripture does not give answers for every problem of the married relationship. It rather teaches particularly essential things for the married women and married men in those days.

1) Wives Be Subject to Their Own Husbands.

3:1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,

3: 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

Firstly, Peter advises wives to expect their husbands **even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives.**

Peter records wives' attitude who are subject to their husbands **without a word**. If their



relationship becomes closer, quite a few problems caused by words increase. They may point out mistakes by word or ask something too directly. Therefore, it is essentially important that **the conduct is without a word.**

Please do not misunderstand what I mentioned. It does not mean to always be silent. **“They see your respectful and pure conduct” (3:2)** with the conduct of wives without a word. Then, it is important for us to see something that is beyond of human power.

2) Let Your Adorning Be the Hidden Person

3: 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—

Generally, a woman thinks about dressing herself beautifully. However, if we devote ourselves to the external things— **“the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear,”** we lose sight of essential things.

I ask you again, please do not misunderstand what I am saying. Please do not think that putting on makeup is not allowed. “You do not think about how much money you can spend for cosmetics and accessories.” That is quite off the point.

The question about how far we can go leads us to the fix idea that if someone goes over the limitation, we criticize him. It is one of the characteristics of **legalism**. Peter does not teach such a thing.

The word for “your adorning” in verse 3 is “**kosmos**” in the original language. It means ① to put something in order, ② the world (the order of the world) and ③ adorning.

{Illustration}

God created heavens, earth and space that is cosmos. He created in orders as below.

The first day: light and darkness, day and night

The second day: the expanse, heaven

The third day: earth and seas and plants

The fourth day: the sun, the moon and stars

The fifth day: the great sea creatures, fish and birds

The sixth day: man, beasts

Like this, God created everything in order. He set the sun, the moon, and stars in the sky and set lands and seas and put animals and plants in suitable places. (Genesis 1)

It is the cosmos (order, harmony).

However, human beings broke the cosmos. Since the days of Adam and Eve, we have broken **order** and **harmony**.

Peter teaches what adorning we should have.

The important point is written in verse 4.

3: 4 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.

It is written in verse 3 that the true adorning is not an external thing. It is written in verse 4, **"let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart"**. It teaches to seek it because it is **very precious in God's sight**. Peter advised that we should adorn the hidden person of the heart before God. Beauty, refinement, and gentleness are revealed from the inside out.

3) The Example of the Women in the Old days

3: 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,

3: 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.

Peter advised women to follow the examples of **the holy women who hoped in God**. The women who hoped in God revealed refinement.

Sara who lived approximately 4000 years ago became over 80 years old. However, Abraham, her husband, feared if the pharaoh might kill him and take Sara. She seemed to have something in her that was not found in other women.

Genesis, Chapter 18 records:

18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my Lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"

Husband simply means **my husband** in Hebrew. However, Peter uses the word husband as **my lord**. Those who call her husband as my lord are blessed. And men should be worthy of being called the lord. The word lord gives a beautiful sound.

Peter encouraged believers to follow the example of Sarah who feared God did good deeds fearlessly.

2. Husbands

3: 7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Now Peter begins to teach husbands. Ladies! You may think that the teaching for husbands is short. It is not fair! Some of you may think that the Bible is not following the current days of equal rights for men and women.

Yes, you may think so according to the sense of today. The biblical scholars say that we need to read the text by considering the culture of the Middle and Near East of 2000 years ago.

{Illustration} Saudi Arabia

Women in Saudi Arabia were allowed to drive a car starting in June 2018. Until then, there were no women drivers in Saudi Arabia society. It was reported as a historical event that women could drive a car.

In 2019, a female car driver joined a car race that was sponsored by the royal family. The women drivers in Saudi Arabia will continue to increase.

Saudi Arabia was not a country of feminism. However, the Bible teaches to show honor to women.

1) Show Honor to the Wife

First of all, it records **likewise** like Chapter 3, Verse 1. It means that wives should be subject to their husbands. And husbands should **honor** their wives.

The Bible advised wives and **likewise** did the same for husbands. Therefore, the husband could not force their wives unilaterally.

2) How to Show Honor to Their Wives

Peter teaches two things.

① **“Live with your wives in an understanding way as the weaker vessel”**

The weaker vessel does not mean that wives have poor ability and are inferior to their husband. There are couples where the husband is weak, and the wife is powerful, however, in general men are powerful.

In those days, in the Middle and Near East society, it is said that the husband controlled his wife. (It occurs even today.) Peter advised that they had to understand the delicateness of their wives. It was very considerable word that was given to the husband

of 2000 years ago in the Middle and Near East world.

- ② Peter teaches that **“Showing honor to the woman since they are heirs with you of the grace of life.”** They should **inherit the grace of life together**. It does not mean that either one becomes happy. The husband rejoices with his wife. It is God’s grace.
- ③ The result of showing honor to his wife

“So that your prayers may not be hindered.” (God’s blessing)

If a man does not honor his wife, his prayer is hindered. Like this, **the correct marital relationship** is that the wife is subject her husband who is the head of a family, and the husband shows honor to his wife. The secret of **the married relationship** is to love and respect each other.

The martial relationship is a very precious thing before God. The relationship between two, the husband and the wife. The correct adorning of the wife is to be adorned by the inward being (cosmos). The husband should love his wife like himself. It is the correct relationship.

However, what about our situation in reality? We are far from **cosmos** that God prepares. As a result, the order and harmony of our marital relationships are broken. There are quite a few husbands and wives who walk selfishly and live selfishly. How many couples have suffered from **the martial relationship**?

We, who listen to the word of the Bible, should be not like them. We should return to the correct relationship. We should accept the advice of the word of the Bible. We should accept simply the Word and restore the correct relationship.

Then what should we do? If we realize our faults, we should come to Jesus. If the husband and the wife have sin, they should come to Jesus and receive His forgiveness.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleans us from all unrighteousness.

Conclusion

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Today, we listened to the Lord about the secret of **the marital relationship**. We should love and respect each other. What a blessed relationship! The secret is written in the following Scripture.

1. To the Wives

3:1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,

2. To the husbands

3: 7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Let us live in the order of God, not stray from His order because God's order (cosmos) prepares us for His blessing. Let us follow the word of God.

* God bless you!