

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – Monongahela, Pa.
Adult Bible Study
The Apostles' Teaching – The Epistles of St. Peter
Session 3

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship
to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)*

I. CHAPTER 3:1-7

St. Peter continues his teaching on relationships in light of faith in Jesus Christ. In the last chapter he examined the relationship between servants and their masters and between secular rulers and Christians.

The position of wives in the first century A.D. was not unlike that of slaves. Under Jewish law a woman was a thing – she was owned by her husband and under no circumstances could she leave him. However a husband could dismiss his wife at any time. Similarly, a wife had no rights under Roman law.

- A. How is the submission here similar in purpose to that in **2:13-15**?

- B. What qualities in wives are highlighted?

- C. St. Paul gives a similar teaching **in Ephesians 5:21-33** (p. 1608) How is his teaching similar and/or different?

- D. How can a wife today *win over* an unbelieving husband?

- E. The use of Sarah as an example of obedience shows that the Apostle had a nuanced view of his teaching on obedience. In Genesis, Abraham is shown as obeying Sarah as often as Sarah obeyed Abraham. (Genesis 16:2, 6; 21:11-12)

- F. How is St. Peter's admonition to husband's in **v. 7** revolutionary considering the culture of the time?

G. How might a husband use this passage as a *weapon* against his wife?

H. According to St. Peter, should a wife endure an abusive relationship?

II. CHAPTER 3:8-22

A. In v. 8 , what does St. Peter exhort everyone in the church (“all of you”) to be? (He lists five things)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

B. In v. 9 , what noble behaviors does he require of everyone?

For reflection:

Of the five attitudes or behaviors in v.8, which one is the most difficult for you? Which one do you need the most help with?

What do you think of St. Peter’s exhortation to give a blessing instead of returning evil or insult to people? Is that something that is difficult / easy for you to do?

How do you know when you should bear up under insult and evil as this passage suggests and when you should defend yourself?

C. Beginning v. 13, St. Peter returns to his reason for writing this letter. See 1:6 & 4:12

D. St. Peter encourages his readers with “*the hope that is in you*” (v. 15). How did he describe this hope in the opening lines of his letter? (1:3-9)

E. What would you say to someone who asked you to give an account of the hope that is within you?

F. What does he refer to in v. 19? Where is this depicted in our church?

G. How does he say baptism is similar to the Flood at the time of Noah?