

Living Within the Family and the World

I Peter 3:1-12 / February 20, 2021

Literary Outline of Relational Behaviors

A)	Political Relationships: Kings	2:13-17
B)	Social-Economic Relationships: Slaves	2:18-20
C)	Model Relationship: Jesus Christ	2:21-25
B ¹)	Family Relationships: Wives and Husbands	3:1-7
A ¹)	Non-Christian Relationships: Everyone	3:8-12

Example 3: How to Live within All Relationships: Jesus Christ (I Peter 2:21b-25)

because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his footsteps,

Jesus' Trial: Do Not Sin When Treated Unjustly (2:22)

- who did not commit sin, Isaiah 53:9
- nor was deceit found in his mouth,

Jesus' Flogging: Submit to Jesus When Treated Unjustly (2:23)

- who when he* was reviled, did not revile in return; Isaiah 53:7
- when* suffering, he did not threaten,
- but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly,

Jesus' Crucifixion: Identify with Jesus' Suffering When Treated Unjustly (2:24)

- who himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, Isaiah 53:4
- so that we may die to sins and live to righteousness,
- by whose wounds you were healed. Isaiah 53:5

Jesus' Resurrection:: Continue to Follow Jesus as your Shepherd When Treated Unjustly (2:25)

- For you were going astray like sheep, but
- you have turned back now to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. Isaiah 53:6

Example 4: How to Live within Family: Husbands and Wives (3:1-7)

Wives' Conduct: (3:1-7)

In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands,

God's Ordained Creation of Humanity

And **God said**,

1. "Let **us** make humankind in **our** image and
2. according to **our** likeness, and
3. let them **rule over** the fish of the sea, and over the birds of heaven, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every moving thing that moves upon the earth."

So **God created**

1. **humankind** in his image,
2. in the likeness of God he created **him**,
3. **male and female** he created them.

And **God blessed** them, and God said to them,

1. "Be **fruitful** and **multiply**, and
2. **fill** the earth and
3. **subdue** it, and **rule over** the fish of the sea and the birds of heaven, and over every animal that moves upon the earth."
(Genesis 1:26-28, Lexham English Bible)

God's Ordained Creation Destroyed

To the woman he said,

"I will greatly increase / your pain in childbearing; / in pain you shall bear children.

And to your husband shall be your **desire**. / And he shall **rule** over you." (Genesis 3:16, Lexham English Bible_

Women in Jewish Culture

"The dominant impression left by our early Jewish sources is of a very patriarchal society that limited women's roles and functions to the home, and severely restricted: (1) their rights of inheritance, (2) their choice of relationships, (3) their ability to pursue a religious education or fully participate in the synagogue, and (4) their freedom of movement." (Ben Witherington, III, "Women (New Testament)," 958.

Women in Roman Culture

Not much information exists about Roman women in the first century. Women were not allowed to be active in politics, so nobody wrote about them. Neither were they taught how to write, so they could not tell their own stories.

We do know a little, however. Unlike society in ancient Egypt, Rome did not regard women as equal to men before the law. They received only a basic education, if any at all, and were subject to the authority of a man. Traditionally, this was their father before marriage. At that point, authority switched to their husband, who also had the legal rights over their children. (The Roman Empire in the First Century: Women <https://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/women.html>

Women and Marriage In Ancient Rome

Throughout most of the history of the Roman Republic marriage transferred a woman from the authority of her father to the authority of her husband or her husband's father or grandfather, if he were alive. The senior father was the pater familias who had total control over all members of his family. In theory that control extended even to life and death, but in reality it was limited to economic matters. The pater familias owned and controlled all of the family's wealth. Any money or property a woman possessed at the time of her marriage passed to the control of the pater familias of her new husband's family.

<http://www.womenintheancientworld.com/women%20and%20marriage%20in%20ancient%20rome.htm>

Why:

so that even if some are disobedient to the word, they may be won over without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful, pure conduct.

How:

Let your adornment not be the external kind,

braiding hair and

putting on gold jewelry or

putting on fine clothing,

but the hidden person of the heart,

with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is highly valuable in the sight of God.

The Contrast: Samson and Delilah

After this he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver." So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you." (Judges 16:4-6, ESV)

And she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies." And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man." (Judges 16:15-17, ESV)

Example:

For in the same way formerly the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves by being subject to their own husbands, like Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, **whose children you have become** when you do good and are not frightened with respect to any terror. (Lexham English Bible)

Abraham and Sarah

And Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of the wife of Abram was Sarai, and the name of the wife of Nahor was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah. **And Sarai was barren; she had no child.** And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot, the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, the wife of Abram his son, and went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan. And they went to Haran, and they settled there. And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

And Yahweh said to Abram, **“Go out from your land and from your relatives, and from the house of your father, to the land that I will show you. And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will make your name great. And you will be a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you, and those who curse you I will curse. And all families of the earth will be blessed in you.”**

And Abram went out as Yahweh had told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he went out from Haran. **And Abram took Sarai his wife,** and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and all the persons that they had acquired in Haran, and **they went out to go to the land of Canaan. And they went to the land of Canaan.** (Genesis 11:29-12:5, Lexham English Bible)

Husband’s Conduct: (3:7)

Husbands,

in the same way live with your wives knowledgeably,
as with the weaker female vessel,
showing them honor
as fellow heirs also of the grace of life,

Contrast: David’s Misuse of Power

1. Military Strength

It came about in the spring, at the time kings go out, David sent Joab and his servants with him and all of Israel. They ravaged all of the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah, but David was remaining in Jerusalem.

2. Economic Strength

It happened late one afternoon that David got up from his bed and walked about on the roof of the king’s house, and he saw a woman bathing on her roof. Now the woman was very beautiful.

3. Political Strength

David sent and inquired about the woman, and someone said, “Is this not Bathsheba the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

4. Physical Strength

Then David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) And she returned to her house.

5. Military Strength

The woman became pregnant, and she sent and told David, and she said, “I am pregnant.”

So David sent to Joab, “Send Uriah the Hittite to me.” So Joab sent Uriah to David. Uriah came to him, and David asked how Joab and the army fared and how the war was going. David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house, and wash your feet.” So Uriah went out from the king’s house, and a gift from the king went out after him. (2 Samuel 11:1-8, Lexham English Bible)

Why:

so that your prayers will not be hindered. (Lexham English Bible)

Example 5: How to Live within the Non-Christian World: Everyone (3:8-12)

Conduct:

And finally, all of you be

1. harmonious, (of one mind)
2. sympathetic, (sharing the experiences of others)
3. showing mutual affection, (Show brotherly love)
4. compassionate, (tender hearted)
5. humble, (meek minded)
6. not repaying evil for evil or insult for insult, but on the other hand
7. blessing others, (to speak well of; not to abuse)

Why:

because for this reason you were called, so that you could inherit a blessing.

How:

- For “The one who wants to love life / and see good days / must keep his tongue from evil / and his lips must not speak deceit. (Psalm 34:12-13)
- And he must turn away from evil and do good; / he must seek peace and pursue it. (Psalm 34:14)
- For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, / and his ears are open to their prayer. / But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. (Psalm 34:15-16). (Lexham English Bible)

Psalm 34

1. In the midst of oppression and suffering, I will, individually and corporately, speak of God’s glory (34:1-3)

(Aleph) I will **ble**ss the LORD at all times; / his **pr**aise shall continually be in my mouth.
 (Beth) My soul makes its **bo**ast in the LORD; / let the humble **he**ar and be glad.
 (Gimel) Oh, **ma**gnify the LORD with me, / and let us **ex**alt his name together!

2. In the midst of oppression and suffering, I will pursue God’s glory. (34:4-7)

(Daleth) I **so**ught the LORD, and he answered me / and delivered me from all my fears.
 (Heh) Those who **lo**ok to him are radiant, / and their faces shall never be ashamed.
 (Zain) This poor man **cri**ed, and the LORD heard him / and saved him out of all his troubles.
 (Cheth) The angel of the LORD encamps / around those who **fe**ar him, and delivers them.

3. In the midst of oppression and suffering, I will experience God’s glory. (34:8-10)

(Teth) Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! / Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!
 (Yod) Oh, **fe**ar the LORD, you his saints, / for those who **fe**ar him have no lack!
 (Kaph) The young lions suffer want and hunger; / but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

4. In the midst of oppression and suffering, I will share God’s glory. (34:11-14)

(Lamed) Come, O children, listen to me; / I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
 (Mem) What man is there who desires life / and loves many days, that he may see good?
 (Nun) Keep your tongue from evil / and your lips from speaking deceit.
 (Samech) Turn away from evil and do good; / seek peace and pursue it.

WHY?

1. The LORD sees and hears the oppressed (34:15-17)

(Ayin) The **ey**es of the LORD are toward the righteous / and his **ea**rs toward their cry.
 (Peh) The **fa**ce of the LORD is against those who do evil, / to cut off the memory of them from the earth.
 (Tzaddi) When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears / and delivers them out of all their troubles.

2. The LORD delivers the oppressed (34:18-20)

(Qoph) The LORD is near to the brokenhearted / and saves the crushed in spirit.
 (Resh) Many are the afflictions of the righteous, / but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
 (Shin) He keeps all his bones; / not one of them is broken.

3. The LORD imparts justice to the oppressors (34:21)

(Tau) Affliction will slay the wicked, / and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

4. The LORD imparts mercy to the oppressed (34:22)

(Peh) The LORD redeems the life of his servants; / none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.