

EXILES

"Love With Honor"

Sermon Recap

This sermon, "Exiles: Week 5," draws from 1 Peter 3:1-7 to emphasize that our ability to **stand firm in faith** is rooted not in life's circumstances, but in God's unwavering goodness, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Pastor Jared highlights that true spiritual growth goes beyond initial salvation to embracing the **lordship of Jesus** over every area of our lives—a process of sanctification likened to God renovating our "house" into a palace where He intends to live, as C.S. Lewis describes. This involves learning to **submit** to God's will, a concept explored in depth within the context of marriage.

The message unpacks biblical submission, clarifying what it **is not**: it is not involuntary, not without exceptions (especially in cases of abuse, immorality, or illegality), not based on fear, and never implies inferiority. Instead, submission is a **willing act** of placing oneself under authority, ultimately making room for God to move. For wives, Peter's countercultural instruction in 1 Peter 3:1-6 encourages them to submit to their own husbands, particularly those who do not believe, so they "may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives when they see the purity and reverence of your lives." This focuses on cultivating an **inner beauty**—a gentle and quiet spirit—over outward adornment, mirroring the example of holy women like Sarah who trusted God even through her husband Abraham's imperfections. This was revolutionary in the Greco-Roman world, which often devalued women.

Husbands are then addressed in 1 Peter 3:7 with an equally countercultural command: "in the same way," they are to be **considerate** as they live with their wives, treating them with **respect** as the "weaker partner" (referring to physical strength, not inherent value) and as "co-heirs" in the gracious gift of life. The sermon stresses that husbands must **initiate spiritual maturity**, leading by example in worship and prayer, and serving their wives sacrificially, just as the persons of the Trinity submit to one another. A sobering warning is given that a husband's failure to honor and love his wife will hinder his prayers, impacting his relationship with God. The sermon ultimately calls for marriages to reject the world's failing "starter marriage" mentality and instead embrace God's design, trusting His way to bring transformation and better relationships, even in difficult circumstances.

When we submit even to an unfair, unjust government, boss, and even a spouse, we're actually making room for God to move in our life. It has nothing to do about them and has everything to do with what he wants to do in our life.

Discussion Questions

Beyond Salvation: Making Jesus Lord of Every Room

The sermon uses C.S. Lewis's analogy of God renovating a house to explain Jesus's lordship. How does this picture challenge your understanding of faith as more than just an initial decision for salvation, but a continuous process of giving God access to “every room” of your life for renovation? What areas might God be wanting to renovate in your life right now? This question encourages reflection on sanctification. It highlights that salvation is the beginning, but lordship involves ongoing transformation where God reshapes our character, priorities, and relationships, even when it feels “abominably” uncomfortable, building us into a “palace” for His dwelling.

Countercultural Influence: Winning Without Words

Peter encourages wives, especially those with unbelieving husbands, to “win them over without words by the behavior of their wives when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.” In a culture that often values immediate self-assertion, how can this “countercultural rebel” approach demonstrate deep trust in God and potentially soften a “calloused heart”? This emphasizes that submission is a voluntary act of faith, not inferiority or forced compliance. It challenges believers to live out their faith through holy conduct, trusting that God can use their character and actions to draw others to Him, even in challenging or unjust circumstances, rather than relying solely on verbal persuasion.

Husbands' Call: Considerate Leadership and Prayer

Pastor Jared highlights that a husband's failure to treat his wife with affection, honor, and love will “hinder his prayers.” How does this direct connection between a husband's marital conduct and his spiritual life underscore the importance of his command to “be considerate,” “initiate spiritual maturity,” and be a “student of his wife”? This question explores the holistic nature of faith, where a husband's relationship with God is intrinsically linked to his marital responsibilities. It stresses that spiritual leadership is demonstrated through sacrificial service, active understanding, and valuing his wife as a co-heir, ensuring that his prayers are not hindered by ungodly behavior within his most intimate relationship.

Prayer 🙏

- May we deeply trust in God's unfailing goodness, grace, and forgiveness as the true foundation for our lives, allowing Him full access to every room of our hearts for His transformative work.
- May we willingly embrace biblical submission as a countercultural act of making room for God's redemptive power, trusting that our pure and reverent lives can speak volumes and soften hardened hearts.
- May husbands sacrificially lead through considerate honor and respect for their wives as co-heirs, understanding that this posture of service deepens their own submission to Christ and keeps their prayers unhindered.

- May we courageously reject the world's broken patterns for marriage, instead choosing God's design, and making room for His Holy Spirit to bring healing, renovation, and greater Christlikeness to our relationships.