**Love Song Take it to the Limit; Song of Solomon, PG13, Homework**

**1 Peter 2:13–3:7**

1. **Serving is the greatest calling**

13 **Be subject** (*submit, why?*) **for the Lord’s sake** to **every human institution**, (*government*) whether it be to the emperor as supreme, (*national level*) 14 or to governors (*local level*) as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

15 (*Why?)* For this is the **will of God**, that **by doing good** you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

16 **Live as people who are free**, **not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil**, but living as **servants of God**. (*it’s the greatest calling*)

17 **Honor (***respect***) everyone**. **Love** (*agape*) **the brotherhood** (*church*). **Fear (***revere***) God**. **Honor** (*respect*) **the emperor**. (*our leaders*)

18 **Servants**, be subject (*submit*) to your masters (*employers*) with **all respect**, not only to the **good and gentle** but also to the **unjust**.

19 For this is a **gracious thing**, when, **mindful of God**, one **endures sorrows while suffering unjustly**.

20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? *(don’t play the victim when you’re in the wrong)* **But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure**, this is **a gracious thing** in the sight of God. (*out of our nature*)

**Jesus served**

21 For to this **you have been called**, (*to serve*) because Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example**, so that you might **follow in his steps**. (*Son of man came not to be served but to serve…Mark 10:25*)

22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

23 When **he was reviled**, *(verbally abused*) he **did not revile in return**; (*arguing would stop if someone would choose not to do it*) when **he suffered**, he **did not threaten**, but **continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly**. (*Because* *God said “vengeance is mine I will repay*”)

24 He himself **bore our sins in his body** on the tree, that **we might die to sin** and **live to righteousness**. **By his wounds you have been healed.** (*His serving, our healing*)

25 For you were **straying like sheep**, but have **now returned** to the **Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.** (*He knows what’s best*)

1. **Marriage is about serving one another**

3:1 **Likewise,** **wives**, be subject (*submit*) to your own husbands (*not men in general*), so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be **won without a word** by the **conduct** of their wives, 2 when they see your **respectful** and **pure conduct.** (*you have profound influence when you choose to serve*)

3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear (*does not mean to not look you’re best*)

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**. (*Internal then external*, *You can be gorgeous outside and ugly inside*)

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

6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (*the one leading*). And you are her children, if you do good and **do not fear anything that is frightening. (***you won’t fear submission when you see the bigger picture of serving***)**

7 **Likewise**, (*submit*) **husbands**, **live with your wives in an understanding way**, (*know her*) **showing honor to the woman** **(***like to the emperor***)**  as the weaker vessel, since they are **heirs with you of the grace of life**, so that your **prayers may not be hindered**. (*you can’t treat your wife poorly and somehow think you are right with God*)

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1. **Intimacy in marriage is serving at its highest level**

**1 Corinthians 7:1–5**

1 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” 2 But because of the **temptation** **to sexual immorality**, **each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband**. (*husband a wife, wife a husband; singular not plural*)

3 The husband should **give to his wife her conjugal rights**, (*an* *obligation to intimacy*) and **likewise the wife to her husband**.

4 For the **wife does not have authority over her own body**, but **the husband does**. Likewise **the husband does not have authority over his own body,** but **the wife does**.

5 **Do not deprive one another** (*rob them)*, **except perhaps by agreement for a limited time**, that you may **devote yourselves to prayer**; but then come together again, so that **Satan may not tempt you** because of your lack of self-control. (*don’t give satan an open door)*

* Wives take care of your husbands
* Husbands your highest goal is to find her greatest pleasure
1. **If you Love to serve and you’ll serve to love**

**Song of Solomon: How God values intimacy**

Homework for the married only (He; She)

* **Intimacy, reserved for marriage, is meant to express human love at its highest level**
* **In intimacy, the two become one and your very souls mesh together**
* **Intimacy in marriage is a picture of the depth of God’s love for us.**
* **When we commit to God, He commits to us and through the Holy Spirit comes inside of us, and we become one with Him**
* **Our very souls mesh with God**

**Song of Solomon 8:6–7** Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, (*commitment)* for **love** is strong as death, jealousy (*His jealousy for us, our jealousy for our spouse*) is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the **very flame of the Lord**. 7 Many waters cannot quench **love**, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for **love** all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised. (*nothing compare to genuine love*)

1. **Conclusion**
* There is nothing more powerful than genuine LOVE
* No one LOVES you like God does.