

THE READY WITNESS OF THE BELIEVER

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: Learn how submission and suffering make believers into ready witnesses for Christ.

Suggestion: This lesson will call attention to important truths in this week's Lesson. After teaching it, give it to your class for review and next week's Student Lesson for answering the questions.

Introduction: This chapter shows how submission (3:1-12) and suffering (3:13-22) prepare believers to be ready and effective witnesses for Jesus Christ. Submission is an effective witness to the unsaved in the home. Suffering is necessary in the birth process in both physical and spiritual birth. Christ suffered to provide the new birth. Believers suffer as witnesses of the new birth. "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pet 3:15).

How can a Christian wife win her unsaved husband to Christ? 3:1-6

Most women during Bible times in Jewish and Gentile countries did not have a choice as to which husband she would have. It was decided by her father. So many Christian women were married to unsaved husbands. How could she lead her husband to Christ? She should be a witness to him by her humble **attitude** of submission to him - 3:1. Added to submission were her **actions** of holy living and fear (loving respect), first for God and then for him. Her **appearance** was not to be an outward showiness, but an inward meekness (gentleness) and quiet spirit - 3:3-4. Her **aspiration** is to be like Sarah and other holy OT women - 3:5-6.

How should a Christian husband treat his wife? 3:7

He should seek to know his wife's physical and spiritual needs and try to satisfy them. He should honor her as the weaker one (physically) and assist her. He should treat her as a fellow heir of the grace of this life. They share the blessings of life together. And if she is a believer, they are fellow heirs in the Kingdom of Christ. He is to treat his wife with love or his prayers will not be answered.

How should believers treat each other? 3:8-12

Peter gives all believers a final word about submission. Submission to each other is needed to have one mind, compassion, brotherly love, tenderness and courtesy among themselves. He concludes with more instructions from Psalm 34:12-16. If they follow these rules, they can be assured that their prayers will be answered.

How should believers prepare themselves to be ready to witness? 3:15

First, they need to sanctify the Lord God in their hearts. That means they are to give the Lord a separate and special place of honor in their lives. This enables them to be bold witnesses for Him. Next, they must be ready to give a clear answer to those that ask for a reason of the hope that they have in Christ. To do this they should answer with Scripture verses to support the reason for their hope. Also, they should answer with Scripture how they learned they were lost sinners, how they learned that Christ was the only One to save them from their sins, how they were saved and how Christ changed their lives to give them hope for the future. They are to tell the truth with meekness (gentleness) and fear (high respect for the Lord). They are to be bold and not afraid to be witnesses for the Lord (Prov 28:1). Finally, they need to be consistent and persistent witnesses like Noah who gave the same message to sinners during his life for 120 years while he built the ark (Gen 6:3; 2 Pet 2:5).