

## Lecture 16 – Introduction to 1 Peter

*Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 1 Peter 3:3-7*

### Key Terms

Pastoral, thanksgiving, holiness, social holiness, persecution

### Lecture Objectives

- Briefly outline the context, purpose, and development of 1 Peter
- Compare the situation of the original readers and our own situation
- Explore implications of Peter's exhortations for our own life and ministry

### Preliminary Questions

- Consider the expressions "Christian holiness" or "holiness of life." Why do these expressions sound strange to the ears of our culture? How do they sound strange to you?
- How might you talk about the place of holiness in the day-to-day living of the Christian life? What does it look like? How does it influence the reputation and communication of the Gospel?

### Introduction to 1 Peter

#### I. Basic Facts and Introduction to Peter and His Letter

A. What is 1 Peter? What might we expect from a spokesman for the apostles?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

B. A pastoral letter (see John 21)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Date, place and occasion: a time of impending persecution

#### II. Authorship of 1 Peter and Place in Canon. The Riddle of Its Form and Language

A. Peter as an apostle, eyewitness.

B. Language of 1 Peter resembles Paul for atonement, suffering, gifts, household. (See next page.)

1. The actual commands. Example: submission for slaves, wives.
2. Both ground household ethic in the redemption and character of God.
3. The terminology is often similar.
4. Critics say:
5. Dr. Doriani's response:

*Ephesians 5:22-25*

*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

*1 Corinthians 14:34-35*

*Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.*

*1 Timothy 2:9-12*

*I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.*

*1 Peter 3:3-7*

*Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine cloths. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves, subjecting themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham...You are her daughters if you do what is right...Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives...*

## III. Outline of 1 Peter

- A. (1:1-12) Thanksgiving A living hope even in face of suffering.
- B. (1:13-2:10) Holiness: the mark of the Christian
  - 1. (1:13-2:3) Motives for holiness, especially individually
  - 2. (2:4-10) The holiness of believers is also corporate
- C. (2:11-3:13) Social holiness shown in submission to authority.
  - 1. Relationships move from most authoritarian to least: king, governor, master, husband.
  - 2. Transition: Good life is possible (3:10-12), but expect unjust persecution (3:13 ff.).
- D. (3:13-4:19) Persecution
  - 1. Not the whole book; always thinking about it. Consider opening and the closing.
  - 2. Suffer for doing good (3:13-17)
  - 3. The example of Christ (3:18-22)
  - 4. Bringing good out of suffering and varied counsel (4:1-19).
- E. (5:1-14) Concluding exhortations, applicable both to suffering and general life

*Why do you think Peter exhorts his suffering readers to holiness rather than preaching "comfort"? What often happens in the Christian life during suffering like Peter is addressing here?*

## IV. Holiness Themes (1 Peter 1:1-2:3 or 2:10)

- A. Overture: Praise to God for a living hope even though you must suffer. Why?
  - 1. Inheritance kept (*tēréo*) in heaven for you.
  - 2. Through faith are kept

3. “You are God’s elect – strangers – there is a reward kept for you – even while you are being kept for it: Guarantee of God’s Faithfulness
  4. “A little while” is a euphemism.
  5. “This is the true grace of God” – grace? The whole book? Just that which allows us to stand against Satan?
  6. Eschatological focus: Treasure kept for us and we are kept for it.
- B. Christian holiness (1:13)
1. Therefore be holy ... several reasons:
  2. We are aliens and strangers in this world
    - a. (1:1) God’s elect, strangers
    - b. (1:14) Self-controlled
    - c. (1:14) Don’t conform to evil desires because we do not really belong here anyway
    - d. (2:11) Aliens and strangers: the song “this world is not my own, I’m just a passing through” – something fishy about this song?
    - e. Models of our relation to culture (R. Niehbuhr)
      - 1) Christ \_\_\_\_\_ culture
      - 2) Christ \_\_\_\_\_ culture
      - 3) Christ \_\_\_\_\_ culture – everything in culture originates from Christ
      - 4) Christ \_\_\_\_\_ culture – this is the work of Christ (Calvin)
        - a) \_\_\_\_\_
        - b) \_\_\_\_\_
        - c) \_\_\_\_\_
    - f. But we must remember that ...
      - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
      - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
      - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  3. God is holy (cf. Lev 11:44-45).
  4. (1:19-24) We are redeemed from ...
  5. Holiness allows best possible life for Christians: it minimizes harm (3:13) and preserves solidarity of covenant family (3:8-9 passim).
- C. Holiness defined:
1. Individual component to Christian holiness: Rejection of ...
  2. Social component to Christian holiness:
    - a. (2:1-3) ...
    - b. (3:8-11) ...
    - c. (4:7-11) ...
  3. Separation from world: Christians are basically against culture in Peter.
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Contemporary application
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. The effects of holiness and the possibility of evangelism in Peter
1. Pagans will see deeds but still accuse (2:12).
    - a. “I hope that you look for the opportunity to share the Gospel”

- b. But I Peter 2:
  - c. They will stop accusing only ...
  - 2. Christians give a reason for their hope (3:15). But ...
  - 3. Commentary on 1 Peter 3:15-16: apologia:
    - a. Apologetics is a legal term
    - b. \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. Pagans find Christian holiness (4:4) ...
- E. Positive aspects of holiness
- 1. “Doing good” (*agathopoios, agathopoieo*) word family in 1 Peter.
    - a. By doing good Christians silence foolish men
    - b. Win husbands, etc.
  - 2. Holiness defined personally and socially....
  - 3. Question: regarding the “reformed view of Christ and culture” how do these cohere with such things as “being the salt of earth”? Remember, salt retards decay; light of world; we should not have a triumphalistic approach; we are never going to “take over.”