

## Bible Study 3 - Be fruitful in relationships

After looking at a Christian's relationships with the world, the government and their employer (1 Peter 2:11-25), Peter turns to family relationships.

### Wives with husbands

1 Peter 3:1-6 "Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives,

<sup>2</sup> when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

<sup>3</sup> Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes.

<sup>4</sup> Rather, 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.

<sup>5</sup> For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands,

<sup>6</sup> like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear."

1. *What is the example for wives to follow (look for "in the same way", which points back to 2:21-25)?*
2. *What should a wife contribute to a marriage relationship?*

### Husbands with wives

1 Peter 3:7 "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."

Ephesians 5:25-28 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her

<sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

<sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

<sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.

3. *What is the example for husbands to follow (look for "just as")?*

4. *What should a husband contribute to a marriage relationship?*

5. *What is the impact of discord in a marriage relationship (1 Peter 3:7)?*

### Christians with fellow-believers

After looking at a Christian's relationships with the world, the government, their employer and their spouse (1 Peter 2:11 – 3:7), Peter turns to church relationships.

1 Peter 3:8 "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

The Greek word translated "love" is "philadelphos", which means love between family members. So a church congregation should be like an extended family.

6. *Should such love involve actions and not just feelings? How can you express these?*
7. *Which characteristic in the list in 1 Peter 3:8 is your weakest?*

*How could you strengthen it?*



## **Other things I discovered in this study**

*8. What I learnt about Jesus Christ.*

*9. What I learnt about people like us.*

*10. Are the words in these passages about our relationships suggestions or commandments?*

*11. What should be a Christian's attitude to these relationships in our physical family and our spiritual family?*

*Why is this important?*

*12. How can you be more fruitful in these relationships?*

Let's love and respect our spouses so our spiritual lives won't be hindered.  
Let's also love and respect our Christian brothers and sisters so people can experience the difference that following Jesus makes.

