

# FORGED IN THE FURNACE

## When the Furnace is Your Family (1 Peter 3:1-7) Pastor Tim Peck Forged in the Furnace (1 Peter) pt. 6

### THE BIG IDEA

Since men and women are equal in Christ, in Christian marriage husbands and wives are called to mutuality. Christians married to non-Christian spouses should let their lives bear witness to the gospel and treat their non-Christian spouse with respect.

### OPENING

- How did your parents define their roles in their marriage as you were growing up?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- First Peter 3:1-7 addressed Christians who were married to non-Christian spouses in a patriarchal culture. Peter's concerns are primarily practical and evangelistic. In contrast, the household codes found in Ephesians and Colossians outline a biblical framework for Christian marriage when both partners are followers of Jesus. These household codes present a model of mutual love and mutual submission for Christian husbands and wives. To learn more about the Bible's teaching from these household codes, watch Pastor Tim's message "Culture Shifting" from Colossians 3:18-4:1<sup>1</sup> and "Becoming God's Family in our Family" from Ephesians 5:21-6:7.<sup>2</sup> For more on headship in marriage, you can read Pastor Kate's article <https://juniaproject.com/5-myths-of-male-headship/>
- The Roman moralist Plutarch wrote, "A wife ought not to make friends of her own, but to enjoy her husband's friends in common with him. The gods are the first and most important friends. Wherefore it is becoming for a wife to worship and to know only the gods that her husband believes in."<sup>3</sup> Why would Christian wives married to non-Christians be unable to abide by this cultural expectation? How might husbands interpret their wives' refusal to abide by this?

---

<sup>1</sup>This message was originally given at Glenkirk on November 8, 2020. You can watch this message on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTdSIR3wDJU>.

<sup>2</sup>This message was originally given at Lake Avenue Church in 2018 by Pastor Tim. You can watch this message on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T98U654WUbE>

<sup>3</sup>Plutarch, *Advice to the Bride and Groom*, 19.1. Plutarch lived in 46-119 A.D.

- According to Pastor Tim, the values Peter commends to wives in v. 2 and v. 4 are not gender specific elsewhere in the Bible. Look up the following verses to see how these same values are described elsewhere:

Purity (Greek: *agnos*): "...whatever is pure..." (Philippians 4:8)

Reverence (Greek: *phobos*): "...if respect, then respect..." (Romans 13:7)

Gentle (Greek: *praus*): "Blessed are the meek [*praus*]" (Matthew 5:5)

Quiet (Greek: *hesuchos*): "Live peaceful and quiet lives" (1 Timothy 2:2).

What do you learn about who these values apply to and how they should be lived?

- 1 Peter 3:7 addresses Christian husbands married to non-Christian wives. Pastor Tim suggests that "weaker partner" may refer to a wife's lack of social and legal standing in Roman culture. Others have suggested that "weaker" here is a reference to a wife's physical strength since men generally have more upper body strength than women. Karen Jobes writes: "*In the context of 1 Peter, the weaker vessel is primarily understood as physical weakness relative to men's strength. Therefore, Peter's exhortation indirectly addresses the issue of physical abuse. However, the immediate context makes it clear that the female is also weaker in the sense of social entitlement and empowerment. Peter teaches that men whose authority runs roughshod over their women, even with society's full approval, will not be heard by God.*"<sup>4</sup> What does this imply about how our relationships with other people impact our relationship with God?

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

- If you are married, what can you do this week to strengthen your bond with your spouse? If you are not married, what can you do this week to strengthen someone else's marriage?
- If someone were to confide in you that they feel unsafe in their marriage, how might this passage guide you in how to best respond?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

---

<sup>4</sup>Karen Jobes, *1 Peter, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament* (Baker Books), p. 280.