

EXILES:

JOYFUL OR CYNICAL?

1 PETER



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- Maybe God is using the very things that most frustrate us to change us.

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- Maybe God is using the very things that most frustrate us to change us.
- Maybe the tensions we are experiencing are a part of God's call in our lives to Christlikeness.

Christian mindfulness =

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when God's presence is shaping our response
more than personal or cultural pressures are

- for the Lord's sake (13)

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- for this is the will of God (15)

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- living as servants of God (16)

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- living as servants of God (16)
- fear God (17)
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- in the sight of God (20)
- to this you have been called (21)

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2. Many “**Christians**” have used **passages** like this for **harmful** purposes.

'Submit to your husbands': Women told to endure domestic violence in the name of God

By [Julia Baird](#) with [Hayley Gleeson](#) Illustrations by Rocco Fazzari

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Research shows that the men most likely to abuse their wives are evangelical Christians who attend church sporadically*. Church leaders in Australia say they abhor abuse of any kind. But advocates say the church is not just failing to sufficiently address domestic violence, it is both enabling and concealing it.

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2. Many “Christians” have used passages like this for harmful purposes.
3. Christianity **practically invented** the concept of **abuse**.

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1. The word “submit” is controversial.
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3. Christianity **practically invented** the concept of **abuse**.

patria potestas = “power of a father”

“A complete, violent exploitation of women without any claim to civic protection was simply, as a problem in its own right, invisible.”

Kyle Harper

“Nature herself intimates that it is just for the better to have more than the worse, the more powerful than the weaker Justice consists in the superior ruling over and having more than the inferior.”

Plato

“Christianity is the most transformative and revolutionary ideology that has ever existed in that in its distinctively western form, it continues to completely saturate the way that people in the west view the world, not just morally or ethically, but on issues as fundamental as the things they take for granted”

Tom Holland

“the things we take for granted”

“the things we take for granted”

- relationship between men and women

“the things we take for granted”

- relationship between men and women
- how society is structured

“the things we take for granted”

- relationship between men and women
- how society is structured
- the nature of progress

“the things we take for granted”

- relationship between men and women
- how society is structured
- the nature of progress
- the value of the marginalized

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- the evils of oppression

“the things we take for granted”

- relationship between men and women
- how society is structured
- the nature of progress
- the value of the marginalized
- the evils of oppression
- human rights/equality

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Christians in the U.S. today are viewed as moral exiles because their beliefs are familiar and offensive.

What is 1 Peter 3:1-7 saying to us today?

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“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands” (3:1)

“A wife should not acquire her own friends,
but should make her husband’s friends her
own.

“The gods are the first and most significant friends. For this reason, it is proper for a wife to recognize only those gods whom her husband worships and to shut the door to superstitious cults and strange superstitions.”

Plutarch

Three false sources of confidence:

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“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.” (1-2)

“Keep your **conduct** among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

1 Peter 2:12

“In a masterful move, Peter both upholds and subverts the social order.”

K.H. Jobes

Three false sources of confidence:

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“Do not let your adorning be external.” (3a)

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the **outside** of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.”

Matthew 23:25

- braiding of hair

- braiding of hair
- displaying gold jewelry

- braiding of hair
- displaying gold jewelry
- wearing nice clothing

“... 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.”

1 Peter 3:4

Rearranging from 3:4 ...

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- external \rightarrow internal

Rearranging from 3:4 ...

- external ➡ internal
- perishable ➡ imperishable

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- external ➡ internal
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aphthartos = indestructible

Rearranging from 3:4 ...

- external ➡ internal
- perishable ➡ imperishable
- manipulative ➡ gentle

Rearranging from 3:4 ...

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“a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious” (4)

“Blessed are the gentle” (Matthew 5:5)

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“... which in God’s sight is very precious”

Three false sources of confidence:

1. Do not rely on your words.
2. Do not rely on your looks.
3. Do not rely on your **fears**.

“For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.”

1 Peter 3:5-6

“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands” (3:1)

“Likewise, husbands ...”

Two commands:

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1. Live in an **understanding way**.

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Lit. “living together according to knowledge”

What kind of knowledge or understanding is he commanding?

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- What are you doing in our lives, Lord? -
Christian mindfulness!

What kind of knowledge or understanding is he commanding?

- What are you doing in our lives, Lord? - Christian mindfulness!
- In what ways are you using my wife in my life?

What kind of knowledge or understanding is he commanding?

- What are you doing in our lives, Lord? - Christian mindfulness!
- In what ways are you using my wife in my life?
- What are her dreams, fears, disappointments, goals, strengths, weaknesses, etc.?

Two commands:

1. Live in an understanding way.

2. Show **honor**

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“showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel”

Two reasons:

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1. You are **co-heirs**.

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“since they are heirs with you of the grace of life”

Two reasons:

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2. Your **prayers** will be **hindered**.

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“so that your prayers may not be hindered”