

Dr. David deSilva, Cultural World of the New Testament

Session 6, 1 Peter and Kinship

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of deSilva, Cultural World of the New Testament, Session 6, Peter and Kinship, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. David deSilva's lecture analyzes 1 Peter through the lens of first-century kinship structures and values. **He explores how the letter's author addresses the challenges faced by early Christians**, emphasizing their new birth into a family of God and the ethical implications of this new kinship. **DeSilva examines the roles of wives and slaves** within this new family, highlighting both the challenges to and the subtle subversion of existing social hierarchies. **The lecture concludes by advocating for a deeper understanding and embodiment of Christian kinship**, urging the modern church to emulate the early Christians' commitment to mutual support and love.

2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. deSilva, Cultural World of the NT, Session 6 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Introduction → The Cultural World of the NT).



**DeSilva_CultureNT_
Session06.mp3**

3. Cultural World of the New Testament, Session 6, 1 Peter and Kinship

Understanding Kinship and Family in 1 Peter

Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. How does 1 Peter describe the process of conversion to Christianity?
2. What is the significance of the term "brotherhood" in the context of 1 Peter?
3. What are the two primary ethical implications stemming from the concept of new birth in 1 Peter?
4. What cultural ideal for wives does 1 Peter appear to uphold, and for what purpose?
5. What specific challenge does the Christian faith pose to wives in relation to their husbands in the ancient world?
6. How does 1 Peter's instruction for husbands to show honor to their wives differ from typical Greco-Roman expectations?
7. What is unique about 1 Peter's instructions to slaves, particularly in regards to obedience?
8. How does the author of 1 Peter ultimately use the example of slaves to model Christian behavior for all believers?
9. In what ways does 1 Peter challenge traditional household hierarchies within the context of Christian faith?
10. According to deSilva, what is the potential impact of embracing the concept of the church as a family?

Quiz Answer Key

1. 1 Peter describes conversion as a "new birth" into a new family, brought about by the "imperishable seed" of God's word. This emphasizes the transformative nature of accepting the Christian faith.

2. "Brotherhood" signifies the creation of a new kinship group among those who share the new birth and common parentage in Christ. It highlights the close bonds and unity expected within the Christian community.
3. Firstly, converts must grow into the likeness of their new Father, God, by embodying holiness in their conduct. Secondly, they must express sincere brotherly love (philadelphia) towards fellow believers, reflecting the cultural expectations of sibling relationships.
4. 1 Peter upholds the cultural ideal of wives being submissive and silent, particularly in relation to their non-Christian husbands. This strategy aims to win their husbands over to the faith through exemplary conduct and respect.
5. The Christian faith challenges wives by demanding exclusive worship of the one God, potentially leading to conflicts with husbands who expect adherence to household gods and participation in pagan rituals.
6. 1 Peter instructs husbands to show honor to their wives not because they are weaker, but because they are fellow heirs of God's gift of eternal life. This highlights the inherent equality and shared spiritual standing of husbands and wives within the Christian faith.
7. 1 Peter, while urging submission to masters, also emphasizes the authority of the slaves' conscience in determining what constitutes sin or good. This implies a right to disobey unjust commands, particularly those conflicting with their Christian faith.
8. The author highlights the slaves' acceptance of suffering for doing good as a model for all Christians. This underscores the importance of enduring hardship and persecution for remaining faithful to God, even in the face of opposition.
9. By emphasizing the shared inheritance and spiritual equality of husbands and wives, and by granting moral authority to slaves, 1 Peter subtly challenges the rigid hierarchies and power dynamics inherent in traditional households.
10. Embracing the concept of the church as a family can lead to the formation of supportive and nurturing communities that embody Christ-like love, care, and restoration. This can create a powerful and attractive witness to the outside world, demonstrating the transformative power of Christian fellowship.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the ways in which 1 Peter employs kinship language and imagery to foster unity and a sense of belonging within the early Christian community.
2. Discuss the role of honor and shame in the context of 1 Peter, particularly in relation to the challenges faced by early Christians within their social environment.
3. To what extent does 1 Peter offer a subversive challenge to existing social structures, particularly within the household? Evaluate the potential impact of these challenges on the lives of early Christians.
4. Compare and contrast the instructions given to wives and slaves in 1 Peter. What similarities and differences can be observed, and what might these reveal about the author's pastoral concerns and strategies?
5. Explore the concept of the church as a family in 1 Peter and its implications for contemporary Christian communities. How can this model be effectively implemented and what are the potential benefits and challenges?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Kinship:** The system of social relationships and responsibilities based on blood ties, marriage, or adoption.
- **Philadelphia:** Greek term for brotherly love, encompassing the expected affection, loyalty, and support between siblings.
- **Household Codes:** Sections in New Testament letters (e.g., Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Peter) that address the roles and behavior of individuals within a household.
- **Fictive Kinship:** The creation of kinship-like bonds between individuals who are not biologically related, often used to create social solidarity and mutual obligations within a group.
- **Subversion:** The act of undermining or challenging established power structures or social norms.
- **Insubordination:** The act of defying or disobeying authority, often used in the context of slaves resisting unjust commands from their masters.
- **Ethos:** The characteristic spirit, beliefs, and values of a particular group or culture.
- **Winsome:** Attractive or appealing in a gentle or engaging way.

4. Briefing Document

Briefing Doc: Kinship Structures and Values in 1 Peter

Source: Dr. David deSilva, *The Cultural World of the New Testament*, Session 6, *Reading 1 Peter attuned to Kinship Structures and Values*

Main Themes:

- **New Birth into a New Family:** Converts are reborn into a new family, the Christian brotherhood, through faith in Christ. This new kinship surpasses natural family ties.
- **Ethical Implications:** This new family identity demands specific behaviors:
- **Imitation of God:** Christians are called to be holy like their heavenly Father. "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:14-16).
- **Brotherly Love (Philadelphia):** Christians are expected to show genuine love and support for one another, reflecting the unity and harmony expected within families.
- **Hospitality:** Open homes and welcoming hearts are essential for the Christian community, offering a tangible expression of love and care.
- **Navigating Relationships in a Hostile World:** 1 Peter provides guidance for Christian wives and slaves within non-Christian households, emphasizing:
- **Wives of Non-Christian Husbands:** Wives are encouraged to demonstrate the attractiveness of Christianity through their respectful conduct, potentially winning their husbands "without a word" (1 Peter 3:1). They are also encouraged to stand firm in their faith, even when facing intimidation.
- **Slaves in Non-Christian Households:** Slaves are urged to maintain submissive behavior while holding fast to their Christian conscience. They are to endure unjust suffering as a testament to their faith.
- **The Slave as a Model Christian:** Surprisingly, the slave's experience of unjust suffering becomes a model for all Christians. Their perseverance and trust in God's judgment serve as an example of faithful living in a hostile environment.

Important Ideas/Facts:

- **Superior Inheritance:** The new family brings an inheritance of eternal life and shared honor in God, contrasting with the "futile ways inherited from [one's] forefathers" (1 Peter 1:18).
- **Transformation of Traditional Roles:** While upholding traditional household structures, 1 Peter subtly challenges them through the lens of Christian values. For instance, husbands are called to honor their wives as "fellow heirs of the grace of life" (1 Peter 3:7), elevating the wife's status beyond mere subservience.
- **The Power of Fictive Kinship:** 1 Peter emphasizes the shared lineage Christians have through Sarah, underscoring their unity and connection beyond natural family ties.
- **Conscience as a Guiding Principle:** Christian slaves are granted agency to discern right from wrong, empowered to act according to their faith even when it conflicts with their master's demands.
- **A Call to Radical Love and Support:** DeSilva challenges modern Christians to embody the radical love and familial support present in the early church. This involves prioritizing the well-being of fellow believers, offering practical help, restoring those who have fallen, and advocating for those facing persecution.

Key Quotes:

- "Love one another earnestly from a pure heart." (1 Peter 1:22)
- "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly since love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8)
- "For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly." (1 Peter 2:19)
- "Show them honor as fellow heirs with you of the gift of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." (1 Peter 3:7)

Implications for Today:

DeSilva's analysis encourages Christians to reconsider the depth and meaning of their relationships within the church. By embracing the concept of the church as a true family, bound by the love of Christ, we can create communities that are:

- **Supportive and nurturing:** Providing practical help and emotional support for each other in times of need.
- **Forgiving and restorative:** Focusing on restoring those who have fallen into sin, rather than ostracizing them.
- **United and harmonious:** Prioritizing reconciliation and resolving conflicts in a way that promotes unity.
- **Missionally focused:** Extending love and support to persecuted Christians around the world, recognizing them as true family.

5. FAQs on deSilva, Cultural World of the New Testament, Session 6, 1 Peter and Kinship, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

1 Peter: A New Family and Its Implications - FAQ

1. How does 1 Peter use the concept of "new birth" to address the challenges faced by early Christians?

1 Peter emphasizes the concept of a "new birth" into a new family through faith in Jesus Christ. This new birth signifies a radical transformation and offers a sense of belonging and hope to believers facing opposition from their non-Christian neighbors. The author highlights the superior nature of this new family, emphasizing the imperishable inheritance and the honor bestowed by God, their new Father.

2. What are the ethical implications of this "new birth" for the believers, according to 1 Peter?

The new birth carries significant ethical implications. Believers are called to grow into the likeness of their new Father, God, by pursuing holiness in their conduct. They are also expected to demonstrate sincere brotherly love (philadelphia) towards one another within the Christian community. This love involves unity, sympathy, hospitality, and forgiveness, reflecting the harmony expected within a family.

3. How does 1 Peter address the challenges faced by Christian wives in non-Christian households?

1 Peter advises Christian wives in non-Christian households to live out the cultural ideal of a good wife as a means of evangelism and gaining respect for their faith. This includes submission to their husbands, modest adornment, and a gentle and quiet spirit. However, the author also emphasizes resistance against any pressure to participate in idolatry, recognizing the wife's ultimate allegiance to God.

4. What is the significance of the phrase "do not fear any intimidation" in 1 Peter 3:6?

This phrase acknowledges the potential for intimidation and pressure from non-Christian husbands towards their Christian wives, particularly regarding domestic religion. It encourages wives to remain steadfast in their faith and resist any attempts to force them into idolatry or compromise their commitment to God.

5. How does 1 Peter instruct Christian husbands to treat their wives?

1 Peter instructs Christian husbands to live with their wives in an understanding way and show them honor as fellow heirs of the gift of life. This instruction emphasizes respect and consideration for their wives, not merely because of their perceived physical weakness, but because of their equal standing before God. This represents a distinctively Christian perspective on marriage.

6. What guidance does 1 Peter offer to Christian slaves in non-Christian households?

1 Peter urges Christian slaves to remain submissive and obedient to their masters in all matters that do not conflict with their conscience. This approach aims to demonstrate that Christianity does not promote social upheaval. However, the author also grants slaves the authority to discern between right and wrong based on their Christian values, allowing for disobedience when commanded to sin.

7. How does 1 Peter present the Christian slave as a model for all believers?

The instructions to slaves in 1 Peter become a model for all Christians. The author highlights their patient endurance of suffering, their refusal to retaliate, and their trust in God's judgment. By drawing parallels between the experiences of slaves and the broader Christian community, the author encourages all believers to follow Christ's example of suffering unjustly and remaining faithful.

8. What is the overarching message of 1 Peter regarding the Christian community?

1 Peter emphasizes the transformative power of the Christian community as a new family united by their shared faith in Jesus Christ. The author calls for believers to live out the ethic of love and kinship, supporting and caring for one another as true siblings. This vision calls for radical transformation both in individual lives and in the communal life of the church, ultimately offering a compelling witness to the world.