The Big Picture

*Finding God’s Purposes in 1 Peter*

Pastor Toby • Week 22 • 1/15/2023

**Redefining the “Win”**

1 Peter 3:1-6

What does it mean to “Win”? (3:1)

* To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to embrace God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* We “win” when we \_\_\_\_\_ do things \_\_\_\_\_ way, not “\_\_\_\_\_ way” or “\_\_\_\_\_\_ way.”

But, HOW can we “Win”?

* Refuse to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:1, 5-6a)
* Do what is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:1b-2, 6b)
* Work on your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:3-4)
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in God for the right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:5a)

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Debrief Plan: 1/15/2023

**Icebreakers**:

1. What is your favorite board game? Are you competitive when you play games like this at a party or with family?
2. Have you ever won a competition of some kind growing up in any arena (sports, cooking, decorating, academics, etc.) How did it feel to win?

**Sermon Summary**: Marriage can degenerate quickly into a struggle for power and control. The only way out of that damaging dynamic is to remember that God defines "winning" as inspiring others to embrace HIS agenda while abandoning their own agendas. It’s up to each of us to refuse to play the “power-struggle” game, keep doing what is right, work on our character, and trust in God for the right outcome.

**Discussion Questions**:

1. Why are we humans so hard-wired to win in life (not just official competitions like sports or the workplace, but also in relationships, in academics, while we drive, etc.)?
2. How do you tend to handle conflict? Is it natural for you to fight back to make your point (or get your way) or to give in quickly to avoid the tension?
3. What’ the difference between “inspiring” your spouse towards a certain direction and “pressuring” them? Can you tell when you’re being “pressured”? If so, how can you tell?
4. How can you make sure that you are working towards GOD’S agenda and not just your own agenda camouflaged as “God’s agenda”?
5. **Look back at 2:13-25.** Are there any principles from the “being subject to” commands in these very different contexts that wives can benefit from as they try to figure out how to “be subject to” their husbands?
6. What should a wife do if her husband takes advantage of her decision to not play the “power struggle” game and always pushes to get his own way?
7. What does it mean to “hope in God” when you are on the wrong side of an authority-power dynamic (like if you’re a citizen under a hostile government – 2:13, or a slave under a hostile master – 2:18, or a wife under a hostile husband)?