

R E M E M B E R Y O U R

H O P E

1 Peter 2:13-25

Introduction

- We are to do good no matter what everyone else around us is doing.
- We are to live subject to the human authorities in our lives.
- We are to honor everyone and fear God.
- If we suffer persecution for doing good, we are following in Jesus's footsteps.

Believers are called to be subject to the
human authorities in their lives

Submission to Authority

- 1 Peter 2:13-17
- Nero (AD 54–68) was emperor at the time Peter was writing but had not yet started killing Christians.
- Most of the persecution at that time was from local officials
- Peter tells them to honor the emperor (verse 17).
- He also says to “honor everyone” thereby putting the emperor on the same level as everyone else, giving him no additional honor.

Submission to Authority

- Peter uses short, direct sentences to make his points:
 - Honor everyone
 - Love the brotherhood
 - Fear God
 - Honor the emperor

Submission to Authority

- We are to honor the emperor because we are to honor everyone. But we are to fear God alone.
- As Jesus said in the Gospels, we are not to fear any man but only God.
- Jesus taught the disciples: “Do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

Submission to Authority

- These persecuted believers needed to know that even though they should be subject to the emperor, God was their ultimate authority.
- There would soon come a day when they would have to choose whether to deny their faith before Nero.
- They would need the strength and conviction that comes from a healthy fear of God.

When we endure suffering for doing good,
it is a gracious thing in the eyes of God

Endure Suffering

- 1 Peter 2:18-20
- God does not condone the master's behavior in this situation.
- Peter explicitly calls the master's actions unjust. The focus of this passage isn't on the actions of the master, but the actions of the servant.
- Notice that the word used here is actually "servant," not "slave."
- The Greek word is *oiketes*, the word for a household servant, not a slave which is *doulos*.

Endure Suffering

- This teaching has a much broader application than just slavery.
- We can apply this principle today to anyone working for an unjust boss.
- In verse 19, Peter speaks more generally of any time someone endures suffering unjustly.
- Recently we discussed how Paul told the master, Philemon, to treat his slave, Onesimus, like a brother in Christ (Philemon 16).
- Paul also told masters to treat servants with respect and love (Ephesians 6:9).

Endure Suffering

- Peter is teaching about patiently enduring suffering for the sake of the Gospel, but he is specifically focusing on the contrast between suffering for sinning and suffering for doing good (1 Peter 2:19–20).
- The “good” Peter is talking about here is doing the right thing even if it means negative consequences to yourself.
- Consider Peter’s own experience: The authorities commanded him to stop preaching the Gospel. He refused and he was unjustly punished for it.

Endure Suffering

- Peter says it is a “gracious thing” when we suffer for doing good without retaliation. We should not respond with sin (verse 18).
- This is what Peter means when he writes that we are to “endure sorrows while suffering unjustly” (verse 19)
- Peter taught that we are NOT to repay evil with evil (1 Peter 3:9).
- Instead, Paul taught that we can overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

When we suffer for doing good,
we are being like Christ

Suffer Like Christ

- 1 Peter 2:21-25
- Peter points to Jesus as our model for enduring suffering without retaliation.
- Instead of seeking His own revenge, He left that up to God (Romans 12:19).
- Peter had a similar experience. When Herod put James to death for his faith, he also arrested Peter.
- But an angel appeared and broke him out of prison. Peter didn't stay in jail but followed the angel (Acts 12:1–11).

Suffer Like Christ

- Jesus is our example, both in His life and in His death (1 Peter 2:21).
- He committed no sin at all, yet was found guilty and executed by human courts and died a criminal's death.
- In this way, He fulfilled a prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 53:7), whom Peter has been quoting throughout this letter.
- Jesus suffered it all for you and for me so that we might live (v. 24).
- Jesus endured unjust suffering to bring about the Gospel.