

BE SUBJECT AND ENDURE SUFFERING

Sunday, October 26, 2025 -- 1 PETER Series -- Msg 17 --Jason Hill

1 PETER 2:18-25

English Standard Version (ESV)

18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. 19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

REVIEW (WHERE WE HAVE BEEN):

- 1) Peter wrote to **ELECT EXILES** facing persecution from a hostile, pagan society.
- 2) He encouraged them to find joy in their trials from God's mercy and grace.
- 3) He called them to live **HOLY LIVES** in the fear of God and in love for one another.
- 4) He challenged them to grow into salvation and, as people of God, to proclaim His excellencies.

1 PETER 2:9 - *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

CONTEXT (WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW):

Peter instructs believers to be submissive to human institutions as part of holy living.

- He speaks to the societal structures of government, **WORK**, marriage, and community.
- He shows that submission within these structures expresses trust in God's sovereignty.
- He states that submission to these structures is God's will and a way to witness to others.
- He shares that **LIVING FREE** is living as a servant to God.

GALATIANS 5:13 - *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

A WORD ON THE NEW TESTAMENT WORLD OF SERVANTS/SLAVES

- 1) There are four words used in the New Testament to refer to slaves or servants.
DOULOS (Slave) / Diakonos (Deacon) / Oiketes (Household slave) / Pais (Personal slave)
- 2) Slaves were conquered people, some were paying off debts, and some chose to be enslaved.
- 3) Slaves were the lowest **SOCIAL CLASS** and treated as property.
- 4) As 1/4 of Rome's population, slaves were essential to society's socioeconomic **STABILITY**.
- 5) Every well-to-do Roman family had slaves working in every area of life from the house to the field.
- 6) Slaves who became believers were instructed to **GLORIFY** God with their actions and attitudes.

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OBSERVATIONS FROM 1 PETER 2:18-25:

THE CALL TO SUBMIT

(v. 18)

"Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect"

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| --Who is called to submit? | Servants in the social structure of the WORKPLACE . |
| --How is one called to submit? | They are called to submit with ALL RESPECT . |
| --To whom is one called to submit? | One submits to good, gentle, and unjust employers. |

HOW DOES WORKPLACE SUBMISSION RELATE TO THE BELIEVER?

1 PETER 2:13 - *Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution...*

- While a believer should submit to his employer, God is ultimately who they should **FEAR**.
- **ATTITUDES** or actions of employers don't determine submission. God-given position does.
- Obeying God is to be happily in submission to what societal structures He has established.

THE CALL TO ENDURE SUFFERING

(v. 19-25)

"...endure sorrow...suffer for it you endure,...you have been called...you were straying"

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| --Who is called to endure suffering? | Servants of Jesus who are suffering UNJUSTLY . |
| --How is one called to endure suffering? | They are called to be mindful of God, do good, and FOLLOW Christ's example. |
| --Why is one called to endure suffering? | So others might die to sin/live to righteousness. |

HOW DOES ENDURING SUFFERING RELATE TO THE BELIEVER?

2 TIMOTHY 3:12-13— Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

- While enduring suffering unjustly, you should **SET YOUR MIND** on the character of God.
- It is pleasing to the Lord for you to continue doing good even if you suffer for it.
- God has **CALLED YOU** to suffer like Christ so endure by entrusting yourself to Him.
- Because you returned to God, He will provide what you need physically and spiritually.

HOW TO PROCLAIM THE EXCELLENCIES OF GOD WHEN SUFFERING UNJUSTLY...

1. Think and **TALK** conscientiously about God while enduring suffering. (v. 19)
"when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows"

COLOSSIANS 3:1-2 - *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

--Getting your **EYES** off your suffering and on to God will focus your **MIND** on His attributes.
--Talking about His grace and character will encourage others to endure in their suffering.

2. Focus on continuously **DOING RIGHT** in God's eyes while suffering for it. (v. 20)
"when you do good and suffer for it you endure"

GALATIANS 6:9-10 - *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

--Obedience to God no matter what the cost is what is acceptable in the sight of God.
--Being wise to what is **GOOD** and innocent to **EVIL** will lead to peace and grace.

3. Follow Jesus' example carefully while living out God's calling to suffer. (v 21-24)
"you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example"

1 PETER 3:9 - *Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.*

--Christ's example is revealed in God's Word, you must **READ** and **STUDY** to know it.
--Any person who follows Christ, the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53, is going to be rejected.

- He committed no sin (Isaiah 53:9) and spoke truth. (Ephesians 4:15)
- He did not seek revenge (Isaiah 53:7) and trusted God. (1 Peter 4:19)
- He bore the punishment (Isaiah 53:4-5, 12) and brought peace and healing.

4. Stand gratefully in a changed future as God provides and protects through suffering. (v. 25)
"you were straying like sheep, but have now returned"

1 PETER 5:10 - *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*

--Turning from your old way of life and trusting in God blots out sin and brings refreshment.
--God's **STEADFAST LOVE** and His **MERCY** never comes to an end. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Christianity exists so that the excellencies of an unseen God will be seen.

JOHN PIPER