

Series: Living Hope
Passage: 1 Peter 2:11-25
Sunday: August 27, 2023

1 Peter 2:11-25 (ESV)

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² 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.

Submission to Authority

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

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.

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1. Think about a time that you needed to show honor to somebody even when you didn't want to. What was the situation?

 2. What good results can we expect from keeping good conduct among unbelievers (verses 11-12)?

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3. How can Christians show respect to governments and ruler even when we think they are wrong (verses 13-17)?

4. Essentially, Peter is saying that God's people should do good and behave well in order to silence their critics. In what concrete ways can Christians do good and behave well in order to silence their critics?

5. How do you respond to Peter instructions for slaves (verses 18-20)

6. How does the example of Christ affect your outlook on the unjust suffering you have faced or do face?

7. How does this scripture point to the living hope of Jesus?