

1 Peter

Lesson 4 Chapter 2:13-25

Participant Guide

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Lesson 4
Submission
1 Peter 2:13-25

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority.

1 Peter 2:13

Prayers

Read 1Peter 2:13-25, Submission to Rulers and Masters

^{1Pe 2:13} Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority,

^{1Pe 2:14} or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

^{1Pe 2:15} For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

^{1Pe 2:16} Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.

^{1Pe 2:17} Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

^{1Pe 2:18} Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

^{1Pe 2:19} For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God.

^{1Pe 2:20} But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

^{1Pe 2:21} To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

^{1Pe 2:22} "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

^{1Pe 2:23} When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

^{1Pe 2:24} He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

^{1Pe 2:25} For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Discuss

1. Peter wrote about the importance of submission to civil authority "to silence the ignorant talk of foolish men" in verses 2:13-15. Refer to the following verses and discuss why some civil authorities persecute Christians.

^{1Pe 2:13} Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ^{1Pe 2:14} or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

^{1Pe 2:15} For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

^{Ro 13:1} Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Ro 13:2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Ro 13:3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

Ro 13:4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Ro 13:5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

Jn 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

2. In 64 AD, fire consumed much of Rome. Emperor Nero blamed the fire on Christians and began the horrific persecution of Christians, killing both Peter and Paul. In normal circumstances, why shouldn't Christians fear the government, according to verse 2:14?

3. In verses 13-17, Peter uses three seemingly contradictory ideas; submission, freedom, and servanthood. Martin Luther thought that understanding Christian freedom was essential to faith and published "On the Freedom of a Christian" in 1520, a book he considered contained a summary of the entire Christian life. How do you think exercising Christian freedom leads to submission and servanthood (this has nothing to do with politics)?

4. In verses 18-25, Peter addresses the suffering of slaves (or servants) by their masters. Hopefully, none of us suffer beatings at the hands of others. If you do, you will need professional help and a strong support network to remove yourself from a dangerous situation. Much of Peter's advice applies to all suffering for Christ, just as Christ said that anyone who does not take up his cross is not worthy of him (Matthew 10:38). What encouragement does Peter give to those suffering for their faith?

5. Just as Christ suffered for us, we should be ready to sacrifice for him and others. What sacrifices do you make in your life for Christ and others?

After addressing the submission of all believers to civil authorities, love for fellow believers, and submission of slaves to masters, Peter focuses on submission in marriage. **Read 1 Peter 3:1-7.**

^{1Pe 3:1} Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,

^{1Pe 3:2} when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

^{1Pe 3:3} Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes.

^{1Pe 3:4} Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

^{1Pe 3:5} For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands,

^{1Pe 3:6} like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

^{1Pe 3:7} Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

6. Verse 3:1 says wives should be submissive "in the same way," referring to the previous verses on submission. Focusing on verses 2:21-25, what is the "same way" wives should be submissive to their husbands?

^{1Pe 2:21} To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

^{1Pe 2:22} "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

^{1Pe 2:23} When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

^{1Pe 2:24} He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

7. What are some of the attributes of true beauty?

- a. Verse 3:2
- b. Verse 3:4
- c. Verses 3:5-6

8. Peter addresses husbands just as he addresses wives, "in the same way." What is "the same way" that forms the basis of consideration and respect between husbands and wives, verse 3:7? Also, refer to Paul's instructions to husbands in Ephesians 5:21-28.

^{1Pe 3:7} Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

^{Eph 5:21} Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

^{Eph 5:25} Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

^{Eph 5:26} to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

^{Eph 5:27} and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

^{Eph 5:28} In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

9. What serious warning in verse 3:7 does Peter give to husbands who fail to treat their wives with respect?

Closing Prayer