

# 1 Peter

## Lesson 4 Chapter 2:13-25

### Leader 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**

<sup>1Pe 2:13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority,

<sup>1Pe 2:14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

<sup>1Pe 2:15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

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

<sup>1Pe 2:17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

<sup>1Pe 2:18</sup> 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.

<sup>1Pe 2:19</sup> For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God.

<sup>1Pe 2:20</sup> 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.

<sup>1Pe 2:21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>1Pe 2:22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>1Pe 2:23</sup> 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.

<sup>1Pe 2:24</sup> 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.

<sup>1Pe 2:25</sup> 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.

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

<sup>1Pe 2:15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

<sup>Ro 13:1</sup> 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."

**Christians are persecuted by authoritarian governments, Islamic states, clan or tribal rivalries, and secular intolerance. Christians are officially persecuted by 52 governments, usually by penalty of death or imprisonment, and persecution affects one in seven or eight believers (about 350 million Christians).**

**Christians threaten authoritarian governments because Christians believe that God is the ultimate authority over government and conscience. Communist governments with the worst history of persecution are North Korea, China, and Russia. Christians are most widely persecuted in Islamic states because they refuse to worship a false god and uphold the dignity of women and their education. Islamic governments with the most severe Christian persecution are Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, Nigeria, and throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and central Africa. Punishments for being a Christian include death, violence, workplace discrimination, and abduction and rape of women. To a lesser extent, Christians are persecuted under Hinduism (India) and Buddhism (Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam).**

**Increasingly Evangelical Christians face secular intolerance in western cultures because of their views on homosexuality, gender, abortion, and salvation by Christ alone.**

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?

**Ideally, Christians should not live in fear of their government because they abide by the laws of society and do what is right before men, their conscience, and God. Sometimes governments are corrupt, and Christians face persecution because of their faith, not their actions. It is difficult to understand God's purposes in these circumstances, but these were also the times the Gospel writers faced and encouraged believers to persevere in their faith.**

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)?

**Christian freedom is about being free from sin because Christ's sacrifice has removed the condemnation for our sins through God's mercy and grace. In Luther's day, people had forgotten**

about grace and lived under the burden of trying to earn God's favor to secure eternal life. They lived with the burden of guilt. How could they ever do enough to make up for their sins and please holy God? Luther preached salvation by Christ through grace alone, not by trying to earn God's favor through our efforts and good works. We are free from trying to earn God's favor, so what can we do with our freedom in Christ? Do good works as Christ's servants by putting their needs before ours! Submission and servanthood are putting the needs of others before ours. God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbors around us who suffer, grieve, and have needs to be met - certainly do. You might think, what is the difference between doing good works to earn salvation and doing good works to love our neighbor? The focus of the first is on ourselves and our efforts; the second is on Christ and our neighbor.

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?

**Peter said we are called to suffer because Christ is in us (verse 21). Suffering for Christ shows we are in unity with him. We should count it as commendable to our faith (verse 20).**

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?

**I admit that I have not felt that I suffered for Christ. Perhaps I have been slow to testify for him. Tithing, charitable giving, and service are the biggest sacrifices I make, but I don't count these as a sacrifice. They have been blessings. I think one part of taking up our cross is setting aside our schedule to meet the needs of others. There are countless Christian charities we can serve to help meet the needs of others. Because these are the last days with war, famine, earthquakes, persecution, hatred, and the love of most will grow cold (Matthew 24:7-14).**

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.**

<sup>1Pe 3:1</sup> 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,

<sup>1Pe 3:2</sup> when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

<sup>1Pe 3:3</sup> Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes.

<sup>1Pe 3:4</sup> 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.

<sup>1Pe 3:5</sup> 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,

<sup>1Pe 3:6</sup> 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.

<sup>1Pe 3:7</sup> 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?

<sup>1Pe 2:21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>1Pe 2:22</sup> “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>1Pe 2:23</sup> 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.

<sup>1Pe 2:24</sup> 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.

**The same way refers to Christ’s submission to the Father so that we might be redeemed and live for righteousness. In the same way, a wife’s submission to her husband can win him to Christ.**

7. What are some of the attributes of true beauty?
  - a. Verse 3:2 **Purity and reverence**
  - b. Verse 3:4 **A gentle and quiet spirit**
  - c. Verses 3:5-6 **Obedience – or respect for husband, doing what is right**
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.

<sup>1Pe 3:7</sup> 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.

<sup>Eph 5:21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>Eph 5:25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

<sup>Eph 5:26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

<sup>Eph 5:27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

<sup>Eph 5:28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

**Christ’s submission to his Father’s will is the basis of submission between all believers to one another and between husbands and wives. Paul instructs husbands to love their wives sacrificially, just as Christ loved the church and sacrificed his life for it. A husband is to love his wife as his own body and desire to present his wife to Christ as holy and blameless, without blemish.**

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

**Peter said that failure to treat wives with respect and as heirs of eternal life in God's kingdom would hinder their prayers from being answered. God wants husbands to set their attitude toward their wives straight before he blesses a husband with answered prayer. In the same way, Jesus said if anyone leaves a gift at the temple but remembers his brother has something against him, he should first go and be reconciled with his brother, and then leave the gift (Matthew 5:23-24).**

**Closing Prayer**