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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 5

### **1 Peter 2:13-25: Living and Loving Like Christ**

*Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution..."*  
– 1 Peter 2:13 ESV

- **Be Subject**

- A hot-button, controversial topic
- But what does it mean to be subject?
  - Someone has authority over us
  - We do not have control
  - But does that mean we have no freedom?

- **Why Submission?**

*Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 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" – 1 Peter 2:11-12 ESV*

- Why do we submit?
  - The glory of God should be our goal
    - Our actions reflect Him to the world
    - But how?

*In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to the Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 5:16 ESV*

- Jesus also called us to live honorably among the lost
  - Because our good works bring glory to God
  - And may also point the lost to Him

- **For the Lord's Sake**

*"Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, of to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and praise those who do good." – 1 Peter 2:13-14 ESV*

- What does it mean to be subject?

*"Be subject means to be submissive to an authority, and this usually implies obedience to that authority." - Wayne Grudem, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, 1 Peter*

- Submission is not blind adherence
  - It is obedience based on a love for the one who has redeemed us
- Consider the context:
  - Nero was the Roman ruler at the time

*"For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to shame the ignorance of foolish people." – 1 Peter 2:15 ESV*

- **The Will of God**

- Submission to authority displays that we recognize who our true authority is
- Our good deeds, even in the face of opposition or subjugation, will silence false accusations
- Peter knew this from personal experience

*Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. - John 18:10 ESV*

- Peter wrote this letter when he was much older and wiser
  - He has put away that sword because God has given a sword to those in authority over him
  - He was now free to submit

*"Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. – 1 Peter 2:16-17 ESV*

- **Live As Who You Are**

- We have our freedom in Christ so that we can serve, but also to submit

*"Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ." - 1 Corinthians 9:19 ESV*

- What is Paul implying here?

- **Servants of the King**

*“Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle, but also the unjust— 1 Peter 2:18 ESV*

“The biblical injustice of American slavery comes down to two things working in tandem: its permanence and its purely racial basis. Even ancient Hebrew slaves enjoyed periodic jubilee. Certainly, New Testament slaves had various means to earn their freedom, depending on the context. This much can be said: God never permits people to use slavery as a means of permanent exploitation, the gluttonous feeding off others and their children, generation after generation.” – Benjamin Lynerd, University of Chicago

- Peter was calling them to submit, even to “unjust masters”
  - Even if it resulted in suffering
  - All based on the knowledge that God would be with them

*“For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.” – 1 Peter 2:19 ESV*

- A Gracious Thing
  - Χάρις - *charis*
    - The spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace
    - Our goodness in the midst of suffering displays God’s grace to a lost world
    - The true grace of God must show up in works and not just words
  - When we endure unjust treatment, it reveals God’s empowering grace at work in our lives

*“I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God.” – 1 Peter 5:12 ESV*

- Do Good?
  - Peter tells us it is God’s will, even when we face persecution
  - There is value in enduring trials faithfully
    - It brings glory to God
    - That is the end game of all creation

*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. – Philippians 2:9-11 ESV*

- Even in our suffering we are bringing glory to the Lord

*“Strangely, God never directly addresses Job’s pain and suffering in his grand monologue (Job 38-41); instead, he recounts numerous instances of his own glorious acts in creation. Why? Because Job needed to see that there was something vastly larger than himself and the pain that circumscribed his miniscule world. He needed to situate his pain within the larger realm of the “theater of God’s glory.” – Scott Christensen, What About Evil?*

- We do good because God has been good to us
- Our ability to do good comes from God

*“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.” – 2 Peter 1:3 NLT*

- How do we know what this looks like?

*“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.” – 1 Peter 2:21 ESV*

- The Perfect Example of Christ
  - Jesus is the perfect model for the life of submission

*“For our sake he made him to sin who knew no sin so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” – 2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV*

- **Imitate Christ**

*He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 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. 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.” – 1 Peter 2:22-24 ESV*

- He committed no sin
- He was not deceitful
- He refused to revile
- He suffered but didn’t threaten retaliation
- And He continued to trust God through it all

*“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave to all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – Mark 10:43-45 ESV*

- Peter wants his readers to understand who we follow after
- He is quoting Isaiah 53 which speaks to the humility and suffering of Christ
- Jesus was the perfect example of submission, selflessness, and sacrifice

- We should have the same attitude as we submit ourselves to the Lord

*“Have this in mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” – Philippians 2:5-8 ESV*

- We have been called to do good even if it involves suffering
- Follow the example we have in Jesus

- **Discussion questions**

How does having a future hope in Christ give us the ability to submit even in suffering?

Why are we called to do good even in our suffering? How does that manifest itself today?

In what areas do you need to submit to Lord in your life?





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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 6 HOMEWORK

### **WEEK 6 – 1 Peter 3:1-7: Unpredictably Practical**

In these verses, Peter continues his application of what it means to live in subjection, even as subjects of the Kingdom. All of this is based on the idea that we are aliens and strangers here. We are God's chosen people and have a citizenship that is not of this world. But we have been commissioned as Christ's ambassadors and must manage the delicate and sometimes difficult balance of representing one authority while living under the jurisdiction of another.

These are controversial verses, but we must keep them within their context. Peter's main emphasis is on conduct or behavior. The context he uses to illustrate proper conduct is marriage. Over the centuries, this God-ordained institution has acquired a significant amount of cultural baggage and ungodly characteristics. In the 1<sup>st</sup>-Century, the institution of marriage was marred by a lot of errant beliefs and expectations. Women were treated as second-class citizens and considered as little more than the personal property of their husbands. But rather than trying to correct all the egregious errors inherent in culture's version of marriage, Peter wanted to raise the believers' view of their God-ordained roles within marriage. The Christian's model for subjection was to be Jesus, who provided a perfect example that could be applied to every area of life, including marriage.

- Read 1 Peter 3:1-7. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
- Set aside some time to read pages 45-50 of Ken's Devotionalary™ on 1 Peter.
- To better understand what Peter is trying to say in this passage, go back and read 1 Peter 2:16 ESV. How does this shed light on the topic of submission?

Throughout his letter, Peter has been reminding his readers that their lives were to reflect their new identity as His children. How do these first seven verses support that call?

Peter wrote, “Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution...” (1 Peter 2:13 ESV). Why would the relationship of marriage provide a key platform for living out their new identity honorably among the Gentiles (1 Peter 2:12)?

- Peter is calling Christian wives to display “respectful and pure conduct” in their home. Why would submission to their husbands fit this criterion?

What do you think Peter means when he tells wives to “be subject to your own husbands?”

In what ways has this concept been misunderstood and abused in the church?

- Why do you think Peter addresses the issue of clothing and jewelry? What is the main point he is trying to make?
- Look closely at verse 7. How can you live with your wife in “an understanding way?”

Peter believed Christian wives were of equal value to God as their husbands. So, why does he refer to them wife as “weaker vessels?”

In what ways can a Christian husband take advantage of his wife’s submissive spirit?