

1ST PETER

Peter has been addressing the issue of “*submission*” to authorities. It’s a big enough of a problem that he elaborates even more in this section of his letter – and connects it with another “s” word...



CHAPTER 2: 18-25

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. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust SUFFERING because he is conscious of God. 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. (EMPHASIS ADDED)

Here, Peter makes it clear that Christians are not just to submit to godly authorities. How does he describe some authorities and what might believers endure because of them?

Have you ever known of believers who claim that they are being persecuted for their faith in Christ, but actually are being disciplined for ungodly behavior? If so, how so?

²¹ To this you were called, because Christ SUFFERED for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth." 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. (EMPHASIS ADDED)

Who does Peter give as an example of submission and suffering – and how is this relevant to the topic?

Notice that Jesus didn’t sin in word or deed, even in the midst of incredible suffering. How does Peter indicate He was able to do this?

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. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Though Christ did not sin, He bore the penalty for our sins. What does Peter say our response should be?

What does Peter mean by the phrase “**By His wounds, you have been healed?**” (See Isaiah 53)

Points to Ponder

How hard is it to be like Christ when we are being mistreated?

What does it mean to entrust oneself to the One who “judges justly?”

