



Submission to Masters

¹⁸ Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

²² "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Peter 2:18-25, NKJV).

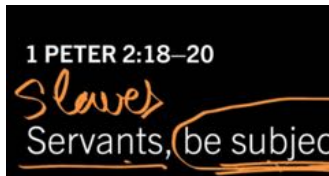
You might remember that last Sunday we saw that Christ is our Cornerstone. All that we are is to be measured and fitted to Him. We are being chiseled and made into living stones that fit within a "holy nation." This means we are called out to live differently from the world. Peter is giving us specific instructions on how to live out our identity in Christ. Living in holiness requires a change of behavior from how we lived before we knew Him.

On Wednesday we had a lively discussion about what it means to "submit ourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake." These are difficult words to read, and it was pointed out that to do so properly, one has to look at the context of what is being said in the whole book of 1 Peter. In the portion of scripture that we studied Wednesday, and in the passage for this morning, Peter is teaching us how to "get along."

A peek ahead gives context to this whole conversation about getting along with the governing authorities.

⁸ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:8-9, NKJV).

As Americans living in a democratic republic, we have the right and the duty to voice our opinion about how the government should function. In 1 Peter 2:14 the text makes it clear that a part of a legitimate government is *“for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.”* As believers, we should have the reputation of being law-abiding citizens who are supportive of law-and-order policies that punish evildoers and reward those that do well. When government does the opposite, it is operating in an illegitimate way. We should vote for candidates who are supportive of Biblical principles. That is our right and our privilege.



V.18 We read, *“Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.”*

We all have a boss. Even when a person is self-employed, they have a boss. The boss is the customer. We’ve all heard: “the customer is always right.” Well, the customer may not always be right, but the customer should be listened to with courtesy. We are to treat others with whom we have contact with showing deference, reverence, and courtesy. I am not saying that you should ever let yourself be abused, but BE THE BETTER PERSON. This last week one of my older friends (a little younger than me) was at a Texas Tech game. Tech played Texas last weekend. While he was leaving, he saw some drunk fraternity boys harrassing a young mother with a small boy. They had on burnt orange t-shirts as they were Texas fans. The kid was in tears and the thirty something year old mother was terrified. My friend stepped in and challenged the frat boys to stop. They of course wanted to kill him, but he kept saying, “You guys are better than this.” In the end, they went their way. Whenever you get into a weird deal with a boss or an employee, be careful. Be carefully truthful but try your best to be “good and gentle.” Try your best to deescalate a situation instead of intensifying it. You’re better than they are. Do better than they do.

We often give deference and respect to others, NOT BECAUSE THEY DESERVE IT, but because that is what we are commanded to do.

V. 19 *For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.*

This verse points out that such a response is “commendable.” We are promised that we will have to endure grief and sometimes suffer wrongfully. I’ve recently heard some teaching that says that large parts of the gospels and the book of Acts are not written for us. Well I will answer that that is wrong. They might not have been written TO US, but ALL scripture is written FOR us. Jesus told His Jewish listeners AND He is telling us,

¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Believers Are Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:11-16, NKJV).

We are to look VERY DIFFERENT from the world. We are the salt and the light in the world. Peter is echoing Jesus in saying that WE ARE TO BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES OF THE WORLD THAT PREVAIL AROUND US.

V. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

When we get what we deserve, it doesn't make us a hero. But, when we do good and suffer for it, if we take it patiently, God takes notice. It is commendable before Him. This last week, I found myself in the courtrooms of Harris County and I found myself in the Probation Department. I would say 80% of those with whom I came into contact were rude and needlessly harsh with me. I took these verses to heart and I lived them out with the power of the Holy Spirit.

When you encounter a weird situation with someone, quietly pray within your spirit that the Holy Spirit would take control of the situation. Then wait and watch. The Lord will give you an opportunity to enter as SALT AND LIGHT. I know this works because I've done it again and again. It may not happen immediately, but SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN. The dynamic will change because you are now operating in the spiritual realm. You are operating in the POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OF THE ONE TRUE LIVING GOD that made it all and HE holds it together.

*To this you were called,
because Christ suffered
for you, leaving you an example,
that you should
follow in His steps.*

1 Peter 2:21

V. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

When we suffer undeservedly, don't be surprised. We were called to precisely this as Christ-followers. Yet, we're to try to get along. We are to be so different that heads will eventually turn.

VV. 22-23 *"Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";*

²³*who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;*

Jesus did no wrong. No deceit came from His mouth. All that He spoke was truth. But, He didn't ever engage in tit for tat. When He was put down, He didn't put down. When He was cornered and when He suffered, He didn't respond with vengeance. He didn't focus too much on the wrongdoers and He didn't figure out how to outmanipulate them. Instead, He committed Himself to the only Judge that matters, Almighty God, King of the Universe. Remember that God sees each and every wrong that is done to His children. Judgment day is coming.

V. 24 *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

Peter reminds us that Jesus didn't get what He deserved. He suffered humiliation,



torture and death. And we didn't get what we deserved either. We deserved ALL THAT HE WENT THROUGH FOR US. He bore MY SINS AND YOUR SINS on Calvary's tree. And He did this, so that we might live in righteousness.

"He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2

Corinthians 5:21, paraphrased).

We were spiritually sick, and by His stripes we were spiritually healed and made spiritually whole.

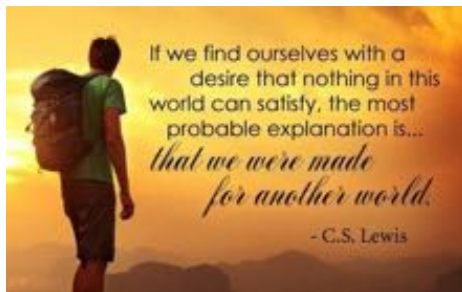
V. 25 *For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

Peter quotes that well-known passage from the Prophet Isaiah that clearly describes the sinful condition of every human.

⁴*Surely, He has borne our griefs and, carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His*

stripes we are healed.⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and, the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4-6, NKJV).

And that's where we each are today. You may have just read through this sermon or sat through it if you're at the Grove today, and you don't have a clue what I'm talking about. Yet, if you look deep into your soul, laying aside all pretenses, you know that something is missing. Something is not right. You've tried it all. You've looked for peace and never found it. The great Christian writer **CS Lewis** said, "**If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.**"



Friend, let me share a truth with you today. **YOU WERE MADE FOR ANOTHER WORLD.** And, there is only one way to get to there, and that is through Jesus the Messiah. Jesus explained it clearly when He spoke to Thomas, His disciple, and He said to him (and He says to us), *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6, KJV).*

If you have never given your heart to Christ, I would ask you this moment to turn to Jesus. In the quietness of your heart, simply say something like this, “Jesus, I am a sinner, and I need YOU. I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. I believe that You died on the cross for ME. You died for my sins, and I accept what you did for me”.

Friend, when you pray that prayer, God promises you that He will put His Holy Spirit within you, which IS THE ONLY WAY that you can not only find eternal life, but live in the way that Peter describes in this passage this morning.

Let us pray.

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at uniongrove362@gmail.com or by snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868. Tel: 936-825-1227 (Edited and proofed by Amanda Neese- Webster, Texas.) All financial gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible as a 501 (c) (3) Corporation.