

Discussion Guide

Week of November 10, 2013

1 Peter 2:13-25

Passage Overview: In 1 Peter 2:11-12, Peter says that we are to live in a way that commends God to the world around us. Peter then applies this call to different areas of life. He applies it to citizens (2:13-17), slaves (2:18-20), wives (3:1-6) and husbands (3:7). Peter's words to each group revolve around his central call to follow the example of the cross (2:21-25). We should suffer for doing good because "to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps" (2:21). Wives and husbands are told to act "in the same way" (3:1-7)—that is, sacrificing for the good of the other just as Christ did for us on the cross. The cross then is our model, and commending God is our goal, as we live in this world.

Understanding God's Word—Read 1 Peter 2:13-25.

- Read vv13-17. To whom should we submit in these verses? What two reasons are given for why we should submit?
 - According to these verses, what is the purpose of human government?
- Read vv18-25. With what attitude should slaves submit to their masters? How does this relate to the previous verses?

Living and Applying God's Word

- How is the example of Christ similar to the situation of the slave, with respect to: (a) innocence? (b) submission? (c) suffering?
- What was the key response of Christ to his situation that serves as a model to us?
- Those who work today are employees rather than slaves. How might this affect what Peter would say to us? What principles apply to both situations?
- Christ's suffering serves as an example, but of course, it is more than an example. Looking at vv24-25:
 - What else did Christ achieve by his suffering?
 - What goal was in mind?
 - How is this a further basis or motive for continuing to do good, even when suffering unjustly?
- Peter says that suffering unjustly is what we are "called" to (v21). What do you think he means by this?

Turning to God in Faith and Repentance

- How can you live on mission with the gospel at your place of work?
- In what situations do you find it difficult to submit to authority?
- What is your usual reaction to unjust suffering? How has this passage challenged your thinking?
- Many people are cynical and disdainful of government structures and leaders. Do you think such an attitude is in line with Scripture? What should our attitude towards government be, given that they (and we) are imperfect and sinful?

Prayer: Thank God for the suffering and work of Christ in bearing our sins in his body on the cross and providing for us an example of how to endure suffering in a godly manner. Ask him to give you strength and perseverance to honor and submit to governments and employers, even when they act in ways contrary to the gospel.

Announcements

- Midweek Fellowships (Weds until Nov 13)—Dinner at 5:45pm, teaching from 6:30-7:30pm, RSVP with Sigourney
- Lunch on the Grounds (Nov 17, right after the service)—purchase tickets in church foyer this Sunday
- Starting Pointe (Dec 6-8)—three-session class that is a prerequisite for church membership; see website for details