

SUFFER WELL

A FIELD GUIDE FROM
1ST & 2ND PETER

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

WK 5: Submitting to Authority

SERIES OVERVIEW

Suffering is a natural consequence of surrender. As we surrender in greater ways to the Lordship of Jesus, we should expect persecution and difficulty especially as we find ourselves living in a negative world. 1st Peter encourages believers to persevere faithfully in light of their present hope and future salvation.

1 PETER VIDEO OVERVIEW

- [Watch HERE](#)

CONTEXT

In 1 Peter 2:13-25, Peter urges believers to submit to every human authority for the Lord's sake, recognizing that by doing good, they may silence the ignorance of foolish people. He also calls Christians to follow Christ's example of suffering unjustly, entrusting themselves to God who judges justly.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:13-25

13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants[c] of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. 18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to

Scripture continued, the good and gentle but also to the unjust. 19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 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. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 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. 24 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. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

THE BIG IDEA

Christians are called to submit to human authorities for the Lord's sake. By doing so, we honor Christ and reflect his submission to the Father.

ICEBREAKER

As Pastor James asked us at the beginning of his sermon, "How many of you love being told what to do?" (Said no one ever haha) Let's have some fun with this... share a time when you just couldn't submit to authority and what was your reason for not submitting?

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STARTER QUESTION

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 1 Peter 2:13-25 as a group. Underline all the commands. (Be subject... vs 13, Honor everyone vs 17, etc.) Which command is the hardest for you to follow and which one is God wanting you to work through & obey?

Reflect on the statement in verse 16: "Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God." How can we balance freedom and servanthood in our lives? Give an example from your own experience.

Discuss the relationship between Submitting and Suffering found in 1 Peter 2:18-20.

Pastor James gave us 3 types of suffering.

- **General Suffering:** suffering we all experience b/c live in a broken world.
- **Just Suffering:** you suffer b/c you're stupid.
- **Unjust Suffering:** you suffer for doing good.

Personally, which of these have you experienced the most and which one impacts your view and relationship with God?

We learn in verses 21-25 that Jesus submitted to Unjust Suffering to save us. What emotions well up in you when you realize WHY He suffered unjustly? How does this change your view of submitting and suffering?

Group Discussion continued:

Consider the phrase "by his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Where else in the Bible is this phrase found? How does understanding Christ's sacrifice impact your view of personal suffering and healing?

Deeper Community:

Share a time when Jesus was the Shepherd and Overseer of your soul (verse 25). In what other ways has Jesus played a role or touched you during hard times or suffering? (Ex. Jesus was my Provider during a hard financial time.)

PRAYER

*For a deeper and more responsive prayer time, separate into smaller (3-6 people) men's groups and women's groups or couples.

Share praises, answered prayers and prayer requests. Pray for your ONE by name and celebrate any God moments in their life!

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we come before You in humility, seeking Your wisdom and strength to submit to the governing authorities as an act of service to You. May we submit to You above all, while standing firm in our faith when called to suffer for righteousness' sake. In Jesus' name, Amen.