

1 Peter 2: 18-25

I. Dealing with unjust suffering. (verses 18-19)

- A. Follow-up to v. 17
- B. Slaves under Roman law
- C. The one who is feared here is not the master but God.
- D. In Christ all rank and strife disappear.
- E. We sometimes find ourselves in a position like a suffering slave.
- F. We don't seek to avoid suffering; we seek to avoid doing wrong.

II. Conscience toward God. (verses 19-20)

- A. Focus on the individual's decisions about what to do.
- B. How do we respond to the social pressures around us?
- C. *Conscience: an internal dialogue with the Holy Spirit concerning what is right, seeking wisdom foremost from Scripture.*
- D. The reality of conscience is better than the Jiminy Cricket version.
- E. "Doing good"—practical meeting of needs.
- F. We make our decisions based on a different understanding of power and judgment.

III. The example of Jesus Christ. (verses 21-23)

- A. You have been called to suffer for Christ who showed you how.
- B. He did not sin or deceive—he deserved *none* of the misery he endured!
- C. He was abused but did not abuse in return; he suffered and didn't threaten; he entrusted himself to the only one who judges justly.
- D. This is all following the example of the long-awaited savior, spoken of in Isaiah 52:13-53:12.
- E. So does this mean that we just let people walk all over us?
- F. How do we make this call?
- G. If God is your judge no one else is!

IV. The gospel of Jesus Christ. (verses 24-25)

- A. But now Peter stops talking about Jesus as our example ...
- B. Do we need the gospel? Why all this talk about guilt?
- C. Jesus suffered not just as an example, but in our place!
- D. "So that we might die to sin and live to righteousness"—a statement of fact, not a commandment.