

In verses 9-10 Peter points out that we are saved to be *the people of God* who had previously not received mercy but now had received His mercy. As God's people, the redeemed are *a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for [God's] own possession*. The purpose? That we *may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light*. God saves us from sin that we might proclaim who He is and what He has done to others.

In verses 11-12 Peter brings out again the themes of sanctification and suffering in relationship to this salvation. Because a Christian is now a child of God, he is an alien and stranger in this world and so should live accordingly and *abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul*. You are something different so you should no longer let the desires of the flesh control you. You are also to maintain excellent behavior among the unrighteous so that though they slander you now, your good deeds will give them cause to *glorify God in the day of visitation*. God saves you from sin so that even though you are slanders in the present, your righteous deeds will be cause to glorify Him.

Submission to Authority. In 1 Peter 2:13-3:12, the apostle brings up the subject of the Christian's submission in the world, in the home, and in the church and directly links sanctification and suffering.

In verses 13-17 Peter brings out the necessity of the Christian submitting for the Lord's sake to institutions of human government so that by doing what is right the ignorance of foolish men may be silenced. Christian servants are to *be submissive to your masters with all respect* and this includes the ones that are unreasonable and unjust. Why? Because to do what is right for the sake of conscience toward God and then patiently endure when you suffer for it finds favor with God. This is following the example Jesus gave us in His own life as Peter points out in verses 21-25. Jesus was sinless, yet He suffered on our behalf so that *we might die to sin and live to righteousness*. He was reviled and suffered, yet did not respond in like manner or make threats, but He instead entrusted Himself to God who judges righteously. We must do the same because that is where our hope lies. While our expectations of justice are low in this life, we are confident of it when this life ends and God will judge every man by either his own deeds or by his faith in the Jesus Christ.

Submission in the Home. In 3:1-7 Peter extends this same principle of submission into the home. Wives are to submit to their own husbands because that is what is right before God. The Lord saved you so that you would be sanctified and in marriage that means you will have *chaste and respectful behavior* towards your husband even when you suffer because he is *disobedient to the word*. The holiness that God has placed in your heart is to be demonstrated by the *imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God*. The term "likewise" in verse 7 indicates that a husband is to respond in a similar way to his wife. Regardless of her behavior whether it is obedient or disobedient to God's word, he is to live with her according to knowledge with an understanding of her weaknesses and *grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life*. To do less would be a hindrance to his prayers.

Peter backs all of this up in 1 Peter 3:8-12 with a call for Christians to live sanctified lives. We are to live according to the characteristics and actions of righteousness while refraining from those of unrighteousness. We are to *turn away from evil and do good*, and in so doing we will find that the eyes of the Lord will be upon us and His ears will attend to our prayers while His face will be against those who do evil.

God's Grace and Suffering. In 1 Peter 3:13-4:19 the apostle gives his most direct instructions to believers concerning suffering. Peter begins in 3:13-17 with an encouragement to the saved to pursue sanctification in the midst of suffering. ¹³ *And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?* ¹⁴ *But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, [you are] blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,* ¹⁵ *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always [being] ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;* ¹⁶ *and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered,*