

Responding to Grace: Submission to Authority in the Workplace
1 Peter 2:18-25

Our Mandate

Our Motive

Our Model

Our Mandate

1 Peter 2:18 **Servants**, be subject to your **masters** with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

Servants (oiketēs): a domestic servant

Masters (despotēs): master; lord, ruler

1 Timothy 1:9–10 understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, **enslavers**, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,

Exodus 21:16 “Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.

1 Peter 2:18 Servants, **be subject** to your masters with all **respect**, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

Be subject (hypotassō): to subjugate; place in submission

Respect (phobos): fear; fear of God

1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the **good and gentle but also to the unjust**.

Good (agathos): generous; pertaining to being generous, with the implication of its relationship to goodness.

Gentle (epieikēs): pertaining to being gracious and forbearing

Unjust (skolios): crooked; bent

Colossians 4:1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

James 5:4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

Our Motive

1 Peter 2:19 For this is **a gracious thing**, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

A gracious thing (charis): favor; goodwill

1 Peter 2:19 For this is a gracious thing, when, **mindful** of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

Mindful (syneidēsis): be aware; meaning a conscience toward God, conforming to His will

The truly humble Christian keeps quiet about his suffering and gladly accepts whatever the Lord allows to come his way. He quietly rejoices because he is counted worthy of participating in the sufferings of Christ.

Bentley, Michael. 1990. [Living for Christ in a Pagan World: 1 and 2 Peter Simply Explained](#). Welwyn Commentary Series. Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

1 Peter 2:20 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.

“the true grace of God” is revealed in the world when Christians who are treated unjustly nevertheless act honorably and good. This is what the world needs to see from us. Our submission is not only within the will of God—it is a gracious thing in the sight of God. In submission you gain God’s smile.

Helm, David R. 2008. [1 & 2 Peter and Jude: Sharing Christ’s Sufferings](#). Preaching the Word. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Our Model

1 Peter 2:21 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.

2 Timothy 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

1 Peter 2:21 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.

Example (hypogrammos): to trace in outline, to copy

1 Peter 2:21 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.

You might follow in (epakoloutheō): follow in the steps; imitate

1 Peter 2:22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

1 Peter 2:23 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.

Reviled (loidoroumenos): abuse; slander; insult

1 Peter 2:23 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.

Continued entrusting himself (paradidōmi): give over; hand over authority

Romans 12:18–21 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Peter 2:24 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.

1 Peter 2:25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.