

## 1 Peter 2:18-21

### For to this you have been called



Grace Life Church  
of Dallas  
The abundance of grace that fills the Spirit in the glory of God

All Bible Verses are in the ESV  
© 2001–2012 Crossway.  
All rights reserved.

All emphasis added/insertions are me

## 1 Peter 2:18

- **Servants:** A large portion of the population were household servants performing various duties/responsibilities.
  - Knowing they are free in Christ, some may begin to think they are free from earthly masters
- **Servants be subject/submissive to your masters**
  - *Submit/submissive* (Same word used in v13); Literally, a military expression meaning “to arrange in formation under the commander”
  - Obey
- Today-”Employees obey/submit to your boss”

**Scriptures regarding servants/slaves**  
1 Timothy 6:1 *Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.*

Colossians 3:22 *Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.*

Titus 2:9-10 *Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, to not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.*

## 1 Peter 2:18-21

18 *Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to 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*

## 1 Peter 2:18

### How are we to submit to our boss/employer?

- “with all respect”
- Do you participate in complaining, gossip or whining regarding your boss/employer?
- God isn’t only concerned with external conformity but the heart.
  - Just as children are called to “obey” and “honor” their parents (Eph 6), we are called to “submit with all respect.”

**Does your workplace behavior (submission/honor) lay a foundation to proclaim the gospel?**

## 1 Peter 2:18

You may be saying yourself “Well, you don’t understand my work environment/boss. If you did, you wouldn’t be saying to submit with honor”

- “be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust”

• Unjust (*skolios*)-crooked (curved), unfair, unreasonable

**Where do we find the strength to do this?**

## 1 Peter 2:19

The biggest mistake we can make is to look to our boss/employer to find reason to submit and honor.

- *V19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly*
  - We find favor with God (He is pleased) when, because we are consumed with God (Godward conscience), we endure (with submission/honor) pain unjustly.
  - Why is God pleased? He gets glory
  - This is contradictory to fallen human nature

7

## 1 Peter 2:20-21

**How do we deal with this trust issue?**

*V20-21 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. V21 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*

- God is pleased & glorified when we do good, and suffer (with honor)

**Does God really want me to suffer?**

*For to this you have been called*

As a Christian, you have been called to suffer injustice (as Christ did) so you can become more like Jesus, and glorify God while being conformed.

9

## 1 Peter 2:18-21

We are called to submit with honor to our boss, even if he/she is unjust. We find favor with God when we endure suffering unjustly, while we are mindful of God.

Jesus Christ, our example, suffered and we are called to follow in His steps.

Can we trust God and submit/honor, or do we need to protect ourselves?

11

## 1 Peter 2:19

Our struggle is sometimes we are not “*mindful of God*”, we are **mindful of self (protecting self, defending self)**

- This is a trust issue (“If I am mindful of God, who is going to look out for me?”)
- “What he/she did isn’t fair, and if I don’t express that by a lack of submission/dishonor, they will think they can just walk all over me.”

When we submit with honor while enduring pain unjustly because we are mindful of God and not ourselves, the lost world must ask “Why?”

- When is the last time your workplace actions made someone ask “Why are you not complaining, or Why are you still honoring them?”

8

## Called to suffering

**Philippians 1:29** *For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake*

**Acts 14:22** *strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*

**John 15:20** *Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.*

**Hebrews 5:8** *Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered.*

10

## Lord’s Supper

- Remember the Lord’s personal love as we remember His body being broken and His blood being shed
- Not only a time to remember but a time to examine ourselves

– **1 Corinthians 11:28-29** *Let every person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

12