

Sermon Outline
The Rev. Dr. S. Edd Cathey
The Witness of Good Conduct - Public
August 9, 2015

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 2:11-25

Great gifts and high privileges call for great service:

“that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1. In General terms

[11] Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

“passions”

“the flesh”

“abstain”

[12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

2. Specifically to Citizens

[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 of God. [17] Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Martin Luther: A Christian is the most free Lord of all, subject to none! A Christian is the most dutiful servant of all subject to all.

“Be subject”

What kind of Emperor was ruling the Roman world?

Why be subject?

[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 of God.

There is a time and place to disobey: THAT TIME is when we are commanded to obey man rather than God or are forbidden from doing what God commands. Then WE should rather die than obey!!!

3. Specifically to servants (slaves)

To these servants Peter says:

[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. [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.

Again v. 12...they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

What does this mean? “on the day of visitation”

- Final judgment- It points to the expectation that many around them may become saved and therefore ready for the final judgment.
- Also, it refers to the visitation of the Holy Spirit expected in the Gospel age!

(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)

(1 Corinthians 15:24-27 ESV)

They believed as we should believe, that real power of God's gospel is displayed in the midst of hardship.

[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.

Christ's example and saving service.

[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.

Is it worth it to suffer because of Christ?

Do you believe Christ will rule the nations? Do you serve a king whose kingdom you think is shrinking and failing?