

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sun 23rd April 2023

Gospel Centred Living - 1 Peter 2:11-25

1 Peter 2 Christian Standard Bible The Living Stone and a Holy People

A Call to Good Works

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. ¹² Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles,^[a] so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.

¹³ Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor^[a] as the supreme authority ¹⁴ or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. ¹⁶ Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brothers and sisters. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Submission of Slaves to Masters

¹⁸ Household slaves, submit to your masters with all reverence not only to the good and gentle ones but also to the cruel. ¹⁹ For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.

²¹ For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² He did not commit sin, **and no deceit was found in his mouth;**^[a] ²³ when he was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who

judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. **By his wounds^[s] you have been healed.** ²⁵ For you **were like sheep going astray,**^[t] but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer^[u] of your souls.

Recap –

1 Peter written in and around 62 to 64 A.D. to believers who were suffering – not overarching persecution – displaced from Rome – sent off to Asia Minor

Find themselves being alienated – marginalised – ostracised – and suffering in their community.

Suffering from the hands of people around them – alienated in their culture.

This is their situation – Immigrants – Colonising – Some of it because they were believers.

Not engaging in the lifestyles of some of their neighbours.

Peter encourages them of their living hope in Jesus Christ.

Telling them not to get bogged down in all that was happening, what they are suffering right now.

Reminding them where they will one day spend eternity.

Commanded as God says, “Be holy as I am holy.” Live holy lives in a sinful world.

- Set apart from sin.
- Set apart to Christ.

Challenged to continue growing spiritually – trusting, taste and see that the Lord is good.

- With Christ as the corner stone, they were a holy nation.
- A chosen race, a priestly people, a people of God’s possession – God’s people.

If we are God’s people, then we are going to be a holy people but then to be turning up our nose to those in authority – they were wrestling with this.

One of the reasons we read what we read in verse 11 is that he has just finished telling them that they are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation – and that there may have been an issue with these people – if we are God’s people, a holy nation – we are going to do what God calls us to do, but we are going to thumb our nose at the emperor, at the local magistrate and we are going to do whatever we are going to do, because they are not our bosses.

In our day we may wrestle from the opposite perspective – that we have our rights! – how dare anyone tell me I don’t have that right!

For the next 2 weeks we will be talking about a not so popular word – Submission.

- Areas of submission – home – school – work – society

“Submission is just not popular!”

Things that in today’s world are just not popular.

We wrestle as a rule in general with authority as human beings.

3 Points to come.

#1- My submission to God is necessary for my freedom. – Imperative this is where we have to start.

#2 - My Submission to God affects my relationship to other people.

#3 - Jesus is always the ultimate example we follow.

Point #1 – My submission to Jesus is necessary for my freedom.

- We may think that if we get out of our parents' house, we get Freedom from home.
- freedom from Government – this is where our freedom is – this isn't necessarily going to bring freedom either.
- Submission to God brings freedom.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.

- Already alienated in their culture.
- Not accepted in their community.

These are things that we need to hear in 2023 as it is the same thing for us today.

¹² Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles,^[a] so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.

- So that when they – not if they slander you – but when they do!

If we are paying attention to the culture around us, we are aliens in our culture today.

- Biblical sexuality is just one example of how now we are alienated.

Referencing V11

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you

- abstain from sinful desires – completely committed to God.
- abstain – is to distance ourselves from sinful desires and actions.
- Be set apart from sin.

Reference V12

- A life that is described as someone who is submitted to God.

James 4:1-10 Christian Standard Bible

Proud or Humble

4 What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don't they come from your passions that wage war within you?^[a] **2** You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and wage war.^[b] You do not have because you do not ask. **3** You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4 You adulterous people!^[c] Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God. **5** Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture says: The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely?^[d]

6 But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says:

**God resists the proud
but gives grace to the humble.**^[e]

7 Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Verse 1

4 What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don't they come from your passions that wage war within you?^[a]

- wars and fights
- come from passion and desires.
- Fight, wage war

- major sinful issues.

⁴ You adulterous people!^[a] Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God.

- You adulterous people – following the cares of the world.
- Friendship with the world is hostility towards God.
- Friends with the world!

God wants all of us, our attention, submission, and loyalty – leaving no room for the world.

⁶ But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says:

**God resists the proud
but gives grace to the humble.**^[a]

⁷ Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- Therefore submit to God – resist the devil – issues with pride.

⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

- We are to be sad about sin – not to celebrate in and of our sin!
- It should cause us anxiety and shame.

¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

- The need to come back and submit to God.
- Submit – meaning rank underneath – a military term.

When we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we are not just giving our life to Jesus Christ to save us from our sin, we are trusting Christ as our Lord.

When give our life to Christ we confess our sin to him and say “Jesus I know that you have died on the cross to save me from my sin, but I also know that you need to be the master of my life.

- what you say goes
- for the rest of my life I am going to do what you want me to do
- stay away from what you tell me to stay away from
- follow the commands that you tell me to follow
- submit myself to you as the ultimate authority in my life.

There is a cost when we follow Jesus.

- Not trying to run our own lives – determining our own destiny.
- There is nothing we can do to earn our way to eternity.

Our thinking and desire should be...

- You are my God, my master.
- I will do whatever you ask and submit to your will.
- The master of my life.

As the holy spirits convicts, we are to confess that before the Lord.

Matthew 8:18-22 Christian Standard Bible

The Cost of Following Jesus

¹⁸ When Jesus saw a large crowd^[a] around him, he gave the order to go to the other side of the sea. ¹⁹ A scribe approached him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

²⁰ Jesus told him, "Foxes have dens, and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

²¹ "Lord," another of his disciples said, "first let me go bury my father."

²² But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

"I will follow you" this is the cost of following Jesus. This is what Jesus is explaining here the cost of following him.

- Are we willing to put everything behind us and follow Jesus?
- Or are we going to following until something significant gets in the way?

“Submission to God is not something we decide we are going to commit to at some point in the future!”

Submitting to God means we are willing to give up everything for the cause of Christ – no matter what it is.

The only way we can truly understand submission in relation to people, is when we are truly submitted to God first.

1 Peter 2

¹³ Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor^[a] as the supreme authority ¹⁴ or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good. ¹⁵ For it is God’s will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. ¹⁶ Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God’s slaves.

- Submit as free people – but as God’s slave – we may see this as an oxymoron!

How are we free if we are God’s slave? – How does this work?

- Free in Christ – this is an inner quality that God brings.

¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brothers and sisters. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Point #2 – My Submission to God affects my relationship to other people.

- Submissive to God

In submission to the authorities.

- Social
- Ecclesial
- Spiritual
- Political

We will never submit fully to parents, work, and authority until we submit to God’s authority.

Submissive as free people. We don’t want tyranny/oppression.

- We do forget that as North Americans who have been extremely blessed to live in the nation, we live in. And it's been blessed initially in that we were a God-fearing God honoring nation. – And that we have not suffered in a way that a lot of other nations have suffered. We have experienced the tyranny that other nations have suffered.

The reality is that Christians have suffered through the ages – and Christians will suffer because we stand for God in a world that stands against God.

Peter is talking about freedom in the sense for free in that the Christian life is free in the sense of virtuous inner qualities.

As Jobs calls it – Loyalty to God should rule one's inner life despite one's outer circumstances.

- Freedom for a believer is freedom from the tyranny of sin.
- Freedom from the bondage of sin
- We don't live to the tyranny of sin to follow its passions anymore; we are free to live for Christ.

This brings about a freedom from shame that sin brings.

- When we engage in sin – it gets a hold of us, and we want to sin more – the more sin the more satisfaction we think we will get – more pleasure – leaving us wanting and wanting and wanting.
- Leading to death – there is nothing good that comes from sin.

As believers who have been saved from, we have peace, a contentment, because we are pleasing God – free from guilt and shame.

- A peace and contentment that comes – this is the freedom Peter is talking about.
- A freedom that doesn't change no matter what our outward circumstances are!

Question - If our outward circumstances change are we free? – as believers of Jesus Christ yes we are.

- We can approach the authorities that are over us because we know we are free in Christ.

Peter gives an example of household slaves.

- We don't really have that situation here.

Slavery

- We don't like to talk about slavery – slavery is wicked, because we are sinful people – wicked people want to enslave – it's always been and is never going away.

This isn't condoning slavery – but neither are calling believers to stand up and rebel against slavery.

- If you are a slave, you are to be the best slave you can be to God's glory.
- To the cruel masters be the best slave.

We may equate it to employment or as a young person to parents.

God is saying that if we are under authority then we need to be the best slaves under authority for God's glory.

We find ourselves in similar situations today.

If people aren't nice to us at work where we have a poor boss as an example. We are to do our best employee we can possibly be to Jesus for them.

Why? – we are then showing a godly testimony to that individual.

Our loyalty to God should rule our inner life.

- To be best citizen we can be for God's glory.

Point to Note –

Just because something is illegal doesn't make it wrong and just because something is legal it doesn't make it right.

- Then in then in the future by God's grace we will know when to stand up to these things.

- Sometimes we may think the Government is our liberator, but only God is our liberator.

Peter when writing this letter standing before the Roman emperor Nero and will be crucified – for preaching the gospel illegally.

When Peter says we need to be submissive to the governing authority or authority that God puts over us we do need to do that. But there may be times when we say no I will not do that because God tells me otherwise.

- God maybe wanting us to stay in our environment with all the grief that we are experiencing because he wants us to be an example – a testimony for Jesus Christ with the person who is being mean to us.

Referencing passage of scripture where Jesus warns the disciples that they were going to be persecuted.

- Jesus says to them – don't prepare what you are going to say ahead of time when you stand before the magistrate when you are going to suffer – the holy spirit will give you what you want to say.

As application it is difficult to know how long we stay in our situation – there are certain situations that God tells us we have to stay in.

- Maybe we don't plan our exit until God gives us that until the time comes.

Here is why we should be willing to endure this suffering and live the way that God has called us to live.

- That is because Jesus is our ultimate example.

1 Peter 2

²⁰ For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.

²¹ For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

- We are not the norm in Christian history – we are the abnormal in what we are experiencing.
- The norm is that Christians suffer for Christ – that is the norm.
- Christ set an example for us in how we do that.

because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

- If we stand up for the truth and we oppose the God's of this culture that we are facing right now.

We definitely have Gods and Idols in the world today – that our culture is preaching to us.

- Gender and sexuality god.
- Or worshiping the environment god.

Worshipping the environment – GIA – Greek Mythology – personification of the earth – a god and idol.

- That we need to worship creation rather than the creator.

We are called names – haters of mankind when we stand up and are submissive to God. Where we are not going to stand up for these other gods.

Jesus did not commit –

- Sin - we are to called to abstain from sin.
- Deception - We are to speak the truth and no deceit in our mouths, we need to be speaking the truth.

(No deceit found in Jesus' mouth)

When Jesus was insulted, he didn't insult in return.

- We live in a society where insults are thrown around all the time.
- When we are insulted, we tend to come back the same – God is saying NO don't do that.

²³ when he was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. **By his wounds^[s] you have been healed.**

- This is what we are called to.

²⁵ For you **were like sheep going astray,^[t]** but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer^[u] of your souls.

- God will look after our soul – God has got us.

Peter – No matter what you suffer – God has got you for eternity.

The gospel is central in our lives to our understanding.

- The reason we can endure suffering is because Jesus set the example for how that looks.

It is a reminder to us as believers that the gospel needs to be central in our lives.

- Everything that we are doing in life.
- Everything we are doing as we submit to God is about the gospel.
- The communication of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour that everybody needs to respond to.

Question – Why am I suffering what I am suffering? – So that I can be a gospel witness to the people around me.

- It is the gospel that changes lives.

Question - Christian – are we – are you fully submissive to God – or do we rebel against at that idea?

- Are we giving all of our lives to God?
- Definite areas of our lives to God?

What is God convicting you of that you need to submit to God? Or that God is convicting you to submit to the authority that is over you right now?