

Servants of God Response Guide

1 Peter 2:13-25

Bethany Assembly of God

July 19, 2020

- Peter has been teaching us that we are citizens of a Kingdom not of this world. If we really are born again, if we have a different Father, if we are a chosen people, if God really does live among us and we are a holy nation, how should we relate to this world?
- Peter says that in relation to this world, you are totally free! (1 Peter 2:16) What does that mean for your relationship to this world?

Big Idea: You should use your new citizenship to serve.

1. You can silence ignorant people.

- Read 1 Peter 2:13-17
- If you are free, why would God expect us to be subject to human authorities?
- Read 1 Peter 2:12 and 15 and answer the previous question again.
- Is there ever any reason to disobey human authority or is Peter speaking in absolutes?
- How do Christians silence ignorance by doing good?
- How can you silence ignorance through your servant's heart, even though you are free?

2. You can preach the gospel through your work.

- Read 1 Peter 2:18-20
- The Bible is not promoting slavery in this passage. If you missed it, make sure to listen to the sermon online for a fuller context regarding slavery in the 1st century Roman Empire.
- Tell about a time when you worked a job where you were treated unfairly. How did you react?

“You have been set free by Jesus. In fact, you are more free than a boss who oppresses you. That person is still a slave to sin and self, but you are a servant of God who isn't

ruled by circumstance but by the Holy Spirit. In fact, your freedom may best be expressed in oppressive circumstances beyond your control because it is there, in those circumstances, that you can demonstrate what it is to have the deeper, spiritual freedom of the children of God.”

- What does Peter mean when he says it’s a gracious thing to endure sorrow and suffering?
- How can you be mindful of God in your suffering at work? (v. 19)
- How does your response to unfair treatment proclaim the good news about Jesus?

3. You can follow Jesus’ way of changing the world.

- Read 1 Peter 2:21-25.
- What do you think of when you hear the term, “word changer?”
- How did Jesus go about changing the world?
- Read Isaiah 53:1-9. Peter saw that this passage was speaking about Jesus.

“The call to follow the crucified Messiah was, in the long run, much more effective in changing the unjust political, economic, and familial structures than direct exhortations to revolutionize them would ever have been. For an allegiance to the crucified Messiah—indeed, worship of a crucified God—is an eminently political act that subverts a politics of dominion at its very core.” - Karen Jobes

- How do you respond when you go through suffering?
- Are you tracing the life of Jesus, following in His footsteps as you suffer, or are you filled with anger, hatred, and reviling?

Conclusion

- Have you used the freedom of your citizenship in heaven as an excuse to sin, be angry, avoid suffering, or revile those who hurt you?
- Are you silencing evil by your good works and preaching the gospel by how you serve?

- If you want to be free people in God's Heavenly Kingdom, becoming a servant is the way forward.