

I PETER 2:13-25
SUBMISSION TO . . .!
PART 1

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to I Peter chapter 2 as we continue our in-depth study of this letter.

This morning we are going to begin looking at a topic that Peter will cover here in I Peter 2:13 to I Peter 3:12.

I know, some of you are excited, *“I wonder what he is going to be teaching on today!”*

Okay, here it is – ***SUBMISSION!***

I know, some of you are thinking, *“I should have checked out the study before we left for church this morning!”*

Well, all I can say is – ***SUBMIT!***

Just kidding. But this is a tough subject because we don’t like to submit to the authority of anyone!

And maybe you feel that this is not that important and why spend so much time on it.

First of all, I just started, and we will probably be looking at this for the next couple of weeks. Just a warning.

The reason this is so important is simple. Paul tells us in Colossians 1:10, **“that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”**

In other words, since we are a new creation in Christ, since the old man has been crucified and now the new man should be living for Christ.

And one of the ways that is manifested is in – ***SUBMISSION!***

I know, not an easy subject but we will see that as we study these verses here in I Peter and my prayer is that we would have a Biblical understanding of what submission is all about!

One website put Biblical submission like this,

Submission is a concept that seems to go against the grain of human nature, and yet we all see the need for it in certain aspects of life.

Without submission, things quickly fall into chaos as everyone strives to be in charge.

Even though it is sometimes mocked as a sign of weakness, submission is really one of the strongest pillars of a stable society.

What does the Bible say about the parameters of submission?

First of all, we need a proper understanding of submission. The English word *submit* comes from a Latin root which means “*to let down, reduce, or yield.*”

It pictures kneeling before a superior. Even our modern language hints at its roots: to have a “*sub-mission*” would mean to have a “*secondary*” mission that yields to a greater one.

The New Testament Greek word is *hupotasso*, which means “*to put under or arrange under.*”

It is a military word that refers to lower-ranking soldiers arranging themselves under the orders of higher officers. *Submission*, then, comes from an acknowledgment of proper order and authority.

All authority comes from God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and we are commanded to submit to Him (James 4:7).

Once we have submitted to God, our highest Authority, recognizing and following the chain of human authority in this world becomes easier.

David respected King Saul's authority as the one God had anointed (1 Samuel 26:11).

Daniel respected King Darius's authority (Daniel 6:21).

Romans 11:36 reminds us that all things are from God, through God, and to God, so He is the highest authority.

Jesus Himself recognized God's authority and was submissive to it.

In John 4:34, Jesus said His purpose was *"to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work,"* and in John 5:30, *"I seek not to please myself but him who sent me."*

Jesus' entire life was one of submission to the Father, culminating with His great prayer of submission just before His death, *"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will"* (Matthew 26:39).

If we will be disciples of Christ, we must submit to Christ's authority, just as He submitted to the Father's (Luke 6:46; 14:27).

. . . Since all authority comes from God, we are to submit to anyone who is placed in authority over us. In so doing, we submit to God.

Likewise, to rebel against those in authority is tantamount to rebelling against God. That is one reason why Christians through the ages have allowed themselves to be martyred rather than take up arms against the State . . .

God is the supreme authority, and He has established earthly authorities. When we keep ourselves within that framework, God is pleased, and we are able to see Him work on our behalf.

- <https://bit.ly/3Bs7t6g>

In saying that, and you have the answer, do you know where submission begins?

It begins with the Lord, that we submit our lives to Him, we live to obey Him. And yes, we fail but that should not cause us to just live anyway we want. We need to follow Him and obey Him and one of the ways that is manifested in our lives is submission to those who are in authority over us, for example.

Never forget that God is in authority over everything! He is the supreme authority.

In saying that we also need to understand that God has given authority to three main institutions that He has created

God has established *human government*, and we see this spoken of here in I Peter as well in Romans 13:1 where Paul wrote, **“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”**

Also, God has established *the church*, and we see that spoken of in Hebrews 13:7, where Paul said, **“Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.”**

And lastly, God has established *marriage and the family*, and Peter picks up on this here in I Peter chapter 3 as well as what Paul said in Colossians 3:18-20, **“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”**

And these three institutions, in fact, everything is under the authority of God! And for there to be a healthy society, all three of these institutions need to be working!

And we can clearly see, in our nation, what happens when they are not working, and it is not good!

And here is the key to submission. Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:21, “**submitting to one another in the fear of God.**”

If we submit our lives unto the Lord, then submission to others will be easy.

If we refuse or fight against submitting to the Lord, then our submission to others will be hard and what ends up happening is that there are divisions, fights, all kinds of problems!

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning into three main points and as we continue with this study next week, we will get a few more points dealing with submission. In fact, I have called these studies – ***SUBMISSION TO . . .?***

These verses can be broken down as follows,

SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT – I PETER 2:13-17

SUBMISSION AT WORK – I PETER 2:18-20

THE EXAMPLE OF SUBMISSION – I PETER 2:21-25

With that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in I Peter chapter 2, beginning in verse 13 and let’s see what the Lord has for us this morning as we look at this topic - ***SUBMISSION TO . . .?***

I PETER 2:13-25VERSES 13-17

Notice how Peter opens up this section on submission. He does so with the word, “**Therefore**” which means he wants to make an application based on what he has just said.

What did he just say?

He said, “**Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.**” I Peter 2:11-12

Now, because of that, live accordingly, don’t be in rebellion!

This is interesting to me because people are always wondering what God’s will is for their life, it is one of those questions people often ask.

Here is something that comes from the heart of God, His will for your life, that you submit yourself to the government, you are a good citizen!

You see, we are to obey the law!

Why is this so hard to do?

We can have lots of reasons why we don’t obey what the government is telling us, or rebelling against the government or just mocking the government.

And it is a battle for us because we do live in two worlds!

What do I mean by that?

Think about it. We live here in America, in the physical world. But we are also citizens of heaven, the spiritual world and these two worlds, in a sense, are in opposition to each other.

That is why it is so hard for Christians to submit to the authority of the government.

Now I know that is hard for some of you to swallow as you look at our nation and the immorality that is going on in our government, as you see how our tax dollars are spent on ungodly things, evil things. And I hear the talk, I hear how Christians respond to government officials and a question I have is this. *“Where in the Bible do you see someone do that?”*

You don't!

I am not saying we agree with everything that they do or say, but we are to respect the position that they have and if we are in rebellion against the government, what is our witness to others?

Are we any different than the unsaved and their actions?

Are people seeing our talk or our actions and are they being drawn to Christ?

That is something each of us have to take to heart as we are out in this world and people are seeing our faith!

And I have heard that some feel our government is much worse today than it was when Peter wrote this letter and thus, we have the right to rebel, to protest, to have sit-ins, to cause chaos so we can get this country back on track!

Sorry, I disagree.

The Roman Empire was not a democracy, and it was no friend to Christians. Immorality ran from the top of the government officials down to the common people.

And yet, Peter tells us we are to obey the laws of the land.

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

In one important respect, today's culture is similar to that of Peter's time - unbelievers from all quarters constantly attack and criticize Christianity. Such opponents of the gospel are often vocal in their criticism and many have succeeded in capturing the major economic, social, and educational institutions of Western society.

Christian apologist Wilbur M. Smith at the end of World War II correctly observed that the world has opposed Christianity ever since Jesus' day and believers should not expect things to be different today:

At first one would think that a religion which exalts and seeks to follow the only perfect and righteous man who has ever lived on this earth, who never harmed anyone, whose words delivered from superstition and fear, whose works redeemed from pain, and demons, and death, and hunger, whose life was as a great shaft of light shot into the murky darkness of the Roman world, in that sensual and skeptic century, who died because He loved us, and who always sought to bring men into communion with God, to bestow upon them eternal life and a home in heaven, one would have thought that such a character, and the religion which His life and work on earth established, would have been welcomed with open arms the first moment it was announced, and would, by its very message, the good works which flowed from it, and the hope which it established, never know opposition, or attack, or denunciation, except from the demons of hell, and Satan, who is a liar and murderer from the beginning. But such has not been its history.

In fact, the New Testament, itself, from the records of the birth of our Lord down to the end of St. John's vision of the era of anarchy and persecution to come, testifies in the most startling way to the fact that Christ Himself was most viciously and constantly attacked, that His apostles suffered the same opposition, and that it was predicted by these very apostles that Christianity would continue so to suffer, down to the end of this age. (Therefore, Stand [Grand Rapids: Baker, 1945], 1)

- John MacArthur, 1 Peter 2:11

We should not be surprised by this, but it does truly sadden me to see how far this nation has sunk into depravity!

And if you struggle with this, listen to the example that Jesus gives to us because the Jews did not like the Roman government, not at all.

And yet, Jesus tells them, and He is telling us that we are to pay taxes. In Matthew 22:17-21 listen to the challenge and how Jesus responded to what they said. We are told, **“Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, ‘Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money.’ So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, ‘Whose image and inscription is this?’ They said to Him, ‘Caesar’s.’ And He said to them, ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.”**

They thought they had Jesus on this one. You see, if He said that we should not be paying taxes to Caesar, then they would tell the Roman authorities, and He could be arrested.

But if He said we should pay taxes, then the Jews would be upset with Him, and they would not listen to Him.

But Jesus said that this money is of the physical world and we are to give it to those who are in authority. But the things of God, the spiritual things, you give them to God! *PERFECT!*

Paul in Titus 3:1-2 tells us, **“Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.”**

And in Romans 13:1-7 we are told, **“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”**

As you know, I am not one for protesting, carrying signs, having sit-ins, causing trouble because I don’t believe that is what God has called us to do.

We are to obey the law as long as the law doesn’t make us do something that goes against what God says, like making women have an abortion.

Folks, I believe that over 99% of the time this is not the issue in our country, thus, obey the law.

And I think the link between the Roman government and our government is this.

It is beyond question that the Roman government brought to the ancient world a sense of security and peace it never had before.

For the most part the seas were cleared of pirates and the roads of thieves; civil wars were replaced with peace, and tyranny [domination] for Roman impartial justice.

I think we are thankful for those who protect us from criminals, fix our roads and the like.

One historian writes, ***“It was the glory of the Roman Empire that it brought peace to a troubled world. Under its sway the regions of Asia Minor and the East enjoyed tranquility and security to an extent and for a length of time unknown before and probably since. This was the pax Romana. The [person under Roman authority] found himself in a position to conduct his business, provide for his family, send his letters, and make his journeys in security, thanks to the strong hand of Rome.”***

Now can things change.

Of course they can and I believe they will and I think we are seeing it at an alarming rate.

How long before preaching the Word of God will be hateful and against the law?

I think we are getting closer and closer to that. And when the government says to do something that is contrary to what God has said in His Word, not our feelings, then we obey God!

But let us live out our faith that they will not be able to bring charges against us for our behavior, but we are above reproach.

Again, one writer put it like this in regard to how some Christians behave in this world.

He wrote,

It is often the scandalous conduct of so-called Christians that provides fuel for the critics' and skeptics' vicious accusations, whereas the godliness of true Christians does the most to silence Christianity's opponents . . .

The nineteenth-century Scottish preacher Alexander MacLaren commented, ***“The world takes its notions of God, most of all, from the people who say that they belong to God’s family. They read us a great deal more than they read the Bible. They see us; they only hear about Jesus Christ”*** (First and Second Peter and First John [New York: Eaton and Maines, 1910], 105).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told all who would seriously follow Him, ***“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven”*** (Matt 5:16).

That is the essence of what Peter in this passage exhorted his readers to do: live godly lives, which is the single most effective foundation for making the gospel attractive and believable.

The recipients of the apostle’s letter needed some motivation to persevere in their evangelism in the midst of the stressful and difficult trials and persecutions they were encountering. Peter called his readers to fortify their testimonies with two crucial aspects of righteous living: a personal, godly discipline that is inward and private, and a personal, godly deportment that is outward and public.

- John MacArthur, 1 Peter 2:13-17

What happens when they tell us we can't share the Gospel, that we can't teach from the Bible against sin and so on?

Like I have said. When they do tell us that we can't speak about Jesus, that we can't teach from the Bible, that we can't gather to worship the Lord, we obey God rather than man!

Remember in Acts chapter 4 Peter and John are placed in prison by the Jewish religious leaders for sharing their faith, by telling people about Jesus, for healing a man who was lame by the power of Jesus.

These religious leaders gathered around Peter and John questioning them by asking them what power they were doing these things, who gave it to them and how do you think they responded?

Today we would call our lawyer, call the newspapers, let people know the injustice that is being done, put the video on Facebook and YouTube, but not Peter and John.

They used this as an opportunity to share their faith, to bring them the good news of Jesus Christ in spite of what was happening to them!

That is a great lesson to learn, don't let the opportunity pass you by, no matter how much you have been wronged!

Then, when the government forbids us to speak of Jesus, then we like Peter can say, **"... 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'"** Acts 5:29.

But again, that rarely happens today, and our focus is not making this a Christian nation but to bring people to Jesus and by that this nation will once again be great, it will be a Christian nation.

You see, you can't legislate Christianity, but you can turn this nation back to God one heart at a time!

And like Peter said, we are free, we are free in Christ, but Peter wants us not to use our freedom to justify our behavior or to use that freedom as an excuse for sin. We need to use our liberty in Christ by showing love towards people!

Warren Wiersbe put it like this,

Peter named the offices we are to respect. *“The king” meant “the emperor.”* In democratic nations, we have a president or premier. Peter did not criticize the Roman government or suggest that it be overthrown. God’s church has been able to live and grow in all kinds of political systems. . . .

Two phrases are important: *“the will of God”* (1 Peter 2:15) and *“the servants of God”* (1 Peter 2:16). When we do something in the will of God and as the servants of God, then we are doing it *“for the Lord’s sake.”*

God has willed that we silence the critics by doing good, not by opposing the authority. The word *“silence”* in 1 Peter 2:15 is literally *“muzzle,”* as though the pagan critics were like a pack of yelping, snapping dogs!

Someone may argue, *“But, as Christians, are we not free?”*

Yes, we are free in Christ; but we must never use our freedom for ourselves. We must always use it for others.

Sad to say, there are *“religious, racketeers”* who prey on ignorant people and use *“religion”* to veil their evil actions.

A true Christian submits himself to authority because he is first of all submitted to Christ. He uses his freedom as a tool to build with and not as a weapon to fight with.

A good example of this attitude is Nehemiah, who willingly gave up his own rights that he might help his people and restore the walls of Jerusalem.

If we are sincerely submitted to authority “*for the Lord’s sake,*” then we will show honor to all who deserve it.

We may not agree with their politics or their practices, but we must respect their position (see Rom 13).

We will also “*love the brotherhood,*” meaning, of course, the people of God in the church.

This is a recurring theme in this letter (1 Peter 1:22; 3:8; 4:8; 5:14). One way we show love to the brethren is by submitting to the authority of the “*powers that be,*” for we are bound together with one another in our Christian witness.

- Warren Wiersbe, *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT*, pp. 905-906

Exactly!

So we have looked at – ***SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT!***

Again, this is what Peter said, “**Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man.**” I Peter 2:13.

But why should we do that?

He goes on to say, “**for the Lord’s sake.**” I Peter 2:13.

I think that is a good reason!

Now we are going to look at – ***SUBMISSION AT WORK!***

VERSES 18-20

Keep in mind that submission to authority is what separates believers from unbelievers!

Peter is speaking of slaves here and not just domestic servants. And the reason I say that is because of how they were treated. Some were treated harshly; some were beaten and that was the case with slaves. Not to say that domestic servants were not treated harshly at times, but a slave, even more.

We need to understand that more than half the people on the streets of some of the great Romans cities were slaves! In fact, it has been estimated that there were as many as 60 million slaves in the Roman empire!

The Roman statesman Cato said, ***“Old slaves should be thrown on a dump, and when a slave is ill do not feed him anything. It is not worth your money. Take sick slaves and throw them away because they are nothing but inefficient tools.”***

And Juvenal wrote of a slave owner whose greatest pleasure was ***“listening to the sweet song of his slaves being flogged.”***

We need to understand that this is the cultural context regarding Peter’s comments to slaves who had become Christians.

Now, in saying that, how much more should we treat those who are our boss!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

“Being a Christian should always make a person a better, more productive, and more agreeable worker. People will not be inclined to listen to the testimony of a Christian who does shoddy, careless work or who is constantly complaining. If a Christian finds an employment situation to be intolerable, he should quit and look for something else. But as long as he is employed he should do the work to the best of his ability.”

And I want you to notice that Peter says we are to be submissive to our masters or boss not only when they treat us kindly or when they are good to us. We are to be submissive to them even when they treat us harshly, they treat us unfairly, when they are mean towards us!

“But I don’t like that!”

That is not the issue, God tells us we are to submit to those in authority over us, and here Peter in speaking of slaves to their masters, in our day it is speaking of our boss at work and as we do, it is commendable before God.

You see, by your actions, your love, it may open the door for you to share your faith and see your boss come to know the Lord!

That is what it is about, living what you believe and share your faith and then you can speak forth what God has done in your life, but first live it, for that will speak volumes to others.

Isn’t that a better way to deal with it than winning the fight but losing the war, the war for his soul?

Of course it is!

But it is a battle as one writer tells us. He wrote,

Today postmodern culture seems to cling to only one basic moral obligation, the sacred duty to provide equal rights for everyone.

No one any longer speaks of sacrifice or privilege - only rights, such as ethnic rights, reproductive rights, immigrant rights, homosexual rights, and workplace rights.

If people do not receive what they think personal freedom should give them, they express their grievances in the form of walkouts, strikes, boycotts, and political rebellions.

Such protesters are usually motivated by the belief that everyone is equal in every way and entitled to exactly the same things as everyone else.

In the workplace, employees voice their grievances over a lack of “*rights*” through work slowdowns, “*sick-outs*,” protests, or all-out strikes that prevent management from conducting business.

Management sometimes responds with lockouts or even termination of the striking employees.

Job actions on occasion do result in salary increases and improved benefits for employees, or perhaps a compromise agreement that benefits both sides in the long run.

However, the focus on “*rights*” in the workplace, whatever the results, is incongruous with the Christian life. Believers are to be concerned instead with obedience and submission to God’s will. When they obey and submit to their superiors, as He commands, they prove that their real hope is in the world to come.

- John MacArthur, I Peter 2:18-21

I agree with that totally. And yes, I know, the flesh is ready to fight but the Spirit is calling you to submit and see what God will do through your obedience to Him!

Clarke put it like this, “*It appears from this that the poor Christians, and especially those who had been converted to Christianity in a state of slavery, were often grievously abused; they were buffeted because they were Christians, and because they would not join with their masters in idolatrous worship.*”

Now, in seeing how bad slavery was back then, why didn’t any of the apostles or New Testament writers condemn slavery?

That is a great question.

Imagine if they said to the slaves who became Christians to walk away from that life, just leave their owners. If they did that it would have brought a slaughtering upon the early church.

Just because they didn't come against it didn't mean that they condoned it!

But by ignoring it isn't that just as bad?

Please understand that they knew that the Lord called these men not to reform society through protests, wars, and the like but the real issue for them was to see lives transformed by the power of God from the inside by the preaching of the Gospel which would then be manifested outwardly, in their actions.

And as these slave owners got saved, they would let their slaves go or treat them with respect.

You see, the real issue here is the heart of man and unless God changes a person's heart, then all kinds of evil, selfishness, would always come forth and oppress people, not only with slavery!

But when these slave owners came to know Christ, the love of God would flow from their lives. (Romans 5:5)

And once this started to happen, as more and more slave owners became Christians, slavery eventually withered and died!

Today, we want to deal with the symptoms, but that will never work. Like the killing of the unborn, homosexuality, transgenderism and the like, and we should fight against these things.

But if that is all we are doing, it will never work because there will always be another immorality, wickedness that comes forth.

We need to focus on the underlying disease and that is the fallen heart of man! That is the solution to the problems we see not only in this country but the world!

I understand, treating your boss with the love of Christ is not easy, the flesh wants to fight against it. And your boss may treat you horribly. And you justify your talk and your behavior at work by pointing to him. That is wrong!

But remember the focus here that Peter wants us to not only understand but apply to our lives – ***SUBMISSION AT WORK!***

Now again, this seems so unfair and yet, for those of us who are still struggling with this idea of treating our evil boss in love, Peter is going to give to us an example that should put to silence any doubt you may still have of how we are to live, how we are to treat our boss even when he is hard on us, harsh to us.

That example is Jesus, of course.

Yes, Peter pulled out the Jesus trump card as he gives us – ***THE EXAMPLE OF SUBMISSION!***

Listen to what he said.

VERSES 21-25

I may not like it, but this is powerful, and I have no excuse not to obey what the Lord has shown us here because He is - ***THE EXAMPLE OF SUBMISSION!***

Here's the thing. Jesus was without sin and yet they persecuted Him, they came against Him and He took it all for us.

He could have wiped them out, He could have had His angels come and wipe them out, but He didn't do that.

Thus, He is our example and as we suffer for righteousness, not suffering for being obnoxious or being a pest or whatever, but suffering for the Lord, we bring glory to Him!

Now, in saying that, look at our society today. When we are wronged, we fight back,
“They are not going to get away with that!”

And that mentality has made its way into the lives of Christians. We can't let things go
 and because of that we retaliate!

We don't commit it to God and leave it in His hands. We take care of it on our own and
 that is not a good thing!

And, like it or not, if that is what you are doing, that is just pride.

I know, how can that be pride?

Because our actions, or retaliation appeals to our flesh, and it makes us feel good. ***“I
 showed them!”***

But the Lord wants us to humble ourselves before Him, and in situations like that, we
 must die to self. And yes, I know, it does not feel good, and it does not empower us. But in the
 end, God will bless you.

Again, our example, Jesus.

What did He do when they arrested Him, beat Him, crucified Him?

Jesus looked to the Father, committed Himself to what the Father called Him to do, and
 we should follow His example!

As Clarke wrote, ***“He suffered, but not on account of any evil he had either done or
 said. In deed and word he was immaculate, and yet he was exposed to suffering; expect the
 same, and when it comes bear it in the same spirit.”***

And Spurgeon put it like this, *“Which hour do you think of the sufferings of the Lord, from Gethsemane to Golgotha, would be most deeply engraved upon the memory of Peter? Surely it would be that space of time in which he was mocked and buffeted in the hall of the high priest, when Peter sat and warmed his hands at the fire, when he saw his Lord abused, and was afraid to own that he was his disciple, and by-and-by became so terrified that, with profane language, he declared ‘I know not the man.’ So long as life lingered, the apostle would remember the meek and quiet bearing of his suffering Lord.”*

The word that Peter uses for **“example”** is the Greek word, *HUPOGRAMMOS*, (hoop-ogram-mos’) and it speaks of a piece of paper placed over something you want to trace so that the original can be duplicated. Think of it as a copy machine. You put a picture in the copy machine and print it, and it is a copy of the original!

Thus, we are to place our lives over Jesus that we may pattern our life after Him!

But the flesh loves to justify our behavior, doesn’t it? It absolutely does and thus, don’t let it. Submit to God and you won’t have a problem submitting to anyone else no matter what they do to you!

Now, the result of the work that Jesus did for us is that He brought healing to our lives, and I don’t believe Peter is speaking of physical healing here, but spiritual healing for it is written in the past tense, **“... by whose stripes you were healed.”** I Peter 2:24.

That does not mean we can’t receive physical healing in Christ, but that is not what this verse is saying as Peter quotes out of Isaiah 53:5.

I know that the faith teachers use this to justify that everyone should be healed, but again, that is not what this is saying.

In fact, how many years do these faith teachers live? Maybe 50, 60, 70, 80 but I have never seen any faith teacher live to be 110 or older, why?

Because they get sick, this body falls apart and they die. I guess they did not have enough faith to live! No, we will die in these bodies of flesh, that is just what the Bible tells us.

J. Vernon McGee put it like this,

By whose stripes ye were healed.” Healed of what? I notice that when so-called faith healers use the words, “by whose stripes ye were healed,” they refer to Isaiah 53:5 rather than to this verse in 1 Peter, because Peter makes it evident that the healing is of sins. I certainly agree that the Lord Jesus came to be the Great Healer - but the Great Healer heals of sins. No human physician can handle that problem. And Peter’s use of these words from Isaiah 53:5 reveals that the prophet Isaiah was not speaking primarily of physical healing but of that which is more important and more profound, healing from sin.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible – Vol. V, p. 695

And Peter closes with this, **“For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”** I Peter 2:25.

Make no mistake about it, sheep are not very bright animals, and they have no natural defense system to protect themselves by.

You have never heard of killer sheep, have you?

Of course not.

And sheep without a shepherd wander aimlessly and get themselves in all kinds of trouble.

Now you know why the Lord likens us to sheep!

Peter's point is that before we were saved, outside of Christ, we were wandering aimlessly, there was not direction to our life.

But then the Great Shepherd came and brought us into His sheepfold, and He is watching over our souls. This was accomplished by His atoning work on the cross of Calvary.

Peter put it his way in I Peter 3:18, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”**

The Amplified Bible puts it this way, **“For Christ [the Messiah Himself] died for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous (the Just for the unjust, the Innocent for the guilty), that He might bring us to God. In His human body He was put to death, but He was made alive in the spirit.”**

That is what our Lord has done for us and all we must do is receive that free gift!

Regarding the work that Christ has done for us, Leon Morris makes these remarks. He said,

- **Redemption** is substitutionary, for it means that Christ paid the price that we could not pay, paid it in our stead, and we go free.
- **Justification** interprets our salvation judicially, and as the New Testament sees it Christ took our legal liability, took it in our stead.
- **Reconciliation** means the making of people to be at one by the taking away of the cause of hostility. In this case the cause is sin, and Christ removed that cause for us. We could not deal with sin. He could and did, and did it in such a way that it is reckoned to us.
- **Propitiation** points us to the removal of the divine wrath, and Christ has done this by bearing the wrath for us. It was our sin which drew it down; it was He who bore it. . . . Was there a price to be paid? He paid it. Was there a victory to be won? He won it. Was there a penalty to be borne? He bore it. Was there a judgment to be faced? He faced it.

- Leon Morris, *The Cross in the New Testament*, p. 405

Leon Morris goes on to say regarding the significance of Christ's substitution,

To put it bluntly and plainly, if Christ is not my Substitute, I still occupy the place of a condemned sinner. If my sins and my guilt are not transferred to Him, if He did not take them upon Himself, then surely they remain with me. If He did not deal with sins, I must face their consequences. If my penalty was not borne by Him, it still hangs over me.

- Leon Morris, *The Cross in the New Testament*, p. 410

But folks, He did Redeem us, He did Justify us, He did Reconcile us for He is our propitiation for our sins.

Paul put it this way in II Corinthians 5:21, **“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”**

The Amplified Bible puts it this way, **“For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness].”**

The Living Bible puts it like this, **“For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!”**

That is very humbling when you realize what the Lord did for you and me!

Now in saying that, what do you think Satan and those that are opposing Christ attack?

Satan loves to attack the Gospel message because he knows that without the shedding of the blood of Christ there is no remission of sin. Thus, he gets people to negate the atoning work of Christ on the cross of Calvary!

Roger Oakland in his book, *“Faith Undone”* had this to say on the subject. He wrote,

“The heart and core of the Christian faith is based upon Jesus Christ’s shed blood at Calvary as the only acceptable substitutionary atonement for mankind’s sins. The Gospel message requires this foundation. The Bible says the wages of sin is death - thus every person alive should receive the penalty of spiritual death because none of us is without sin, since we are born with our sin nature intact. Satan hates the Gospel message. He understands what the Gospel means, and his agenda is to deceive mankind from understanding and believing so they can suffer eternally with him. While Scripture is very clear about the necessity of Christ’s death in order for us to be saved, some believe this would make God a blood-thirsty barbarian. Embedded within the structure of the emerging church is just such a belief.”

Without the shedding of the blood of Christ, there is no remission of sins! (Hebrews 9:22)

Look at what we saw this morning.

SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT!

SUBMISSION AT WORK!

And as we may struggle or try to fight against this or justify it, Peter gives us – ***THE***

EXAMPLE OF SUBMISSION!

And, as we have seen, ***THE EXAMPLE OF SUBMISSION IS JESUS!***

May we follow His example as a servant, submitting our lives to the Father and to those in authority over us, humbling ourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift us up and by our actions, a soul might be saved!

Folks, when you think about it, that is what is important, so important that God sent His Son to pay in full the penalty for our sins on the cross of Calvary.

Thus, may we die to self so that our life may shine brightly for Jesus and draw others to Him! It is like Jesus said in Luke 15:10, "**Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.**" May we have that perspective as we live out our faith and glorify our Father in Heaven!

It is not about us, but about those who don't know the Lord. For us, we must die to self to see people saved!

And I will close with these words that Paul wrote in II Corinthians 4:16-18 to keep the proper perspective in this life.

He wrote, "**Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**"