



Click here to: [Give to 4C](#)

A Study of 1 Peter Submission and Unjust Suffering

**4 Corners Church
July 19, 2026**

Peter engages two realities that our culture instinctively rejects: submission and unjust suffering.

He defines three arenas where believers experience injustice: Under unjust government, under unjust master or employers, when married to imperfect spouses.

1. Under unjust government.

1 Peter 2:13–17 *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.*

- Submit to every legitimate human authority because of the Lord, not because rulers are perfect, recognizing government is ordained by God.
- Often our struggle is not with a particular authority. It is with authority itself.
- God is known only through surrender. Rebellion toward God-ordained authority often reveals rebellion toward God Himself.
- Authority is ordained by God. Government and other institutions are expressions of God's common grace to preserve order (Romans 13).
- Submission becomes a witness. Doing good silences foolish accusations against Christians.
- Civil disobedience becomes necessary when government commands personal disobedience to God. When government demands sin, believers obey God rather than men.
 - Exodus 1 — Hebrew midwives
 - Daniel 3 — Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego
 - Daniel 6 — Daniel praying
 - Acts 4 — Apostles forbidden to preach
- Freedom is not independence. Freedom is responsibility, submission to God, holiness. Christian liberty is never a license for sin.
- Honor everyone. Reject racism, elitism, partiality. People deserve honor because they bear God's image not because they are useful.

- Love the brotherhood. Men are to lead here... be excited to be connected.
- Fear God. When you fear the Lord above all else, you'll be free of the fear of men.
- Honor the king. Respect governing authority without worshiping it.
- The early church was falsely accused of cannibalism, immorality, atheism, sedition.
- Peter's strategy is not retaliation. It is overwhelming goodness. Serve so faithfully that accusations lose credibility.
- The most persuasive response to slander is a life overflowing with goodness

2. Under unjust masters/employers

1 Peter 2:18–25 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.* 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.*

- Peter here is not defending slavery. The Christian value of the "imago dei" led to the abolition of slavery in west Europe and the USA.
- The Gospel plants seeds that ultimately reshape society.
 - Great Awakening, John Wesley, William Wilberforce
- Peter addresses household servants. Many were: managers, physicians, teachers, professionals. This extends naturally to today's workplace.
- Whether leaders are kind, unreasonable, or harsh, believers demonstrate submission to God through respectful conduct.
- Not every hardship is persecution. Peter distinguishes between deserved consequences and unjust suffering for doing good.
- There is no glory in suffering because of wrongdoing. There is honor in suffering for righteousness.
- Jesus taught the same principle (Luke 6:32–35). He said we are to love our enemies, difficult people, and those who cannot repay. This reflects the Father's character.
- Peter moves from Christian duty to Christ's example.
- Jesus Himself suffered unjustly, entrusted Himself to the Father, bore our sins, became our Shepherd.
- The cross becomes both our salvation and our pattern.
- Our citizenship is ultimately heavenly. Our reward is eternal. Our hope is resurrection.
- Peter's call is not passive resignation. It is courageous confidence.

- Christians submit because Christ reigns, endure because Christ judges justly, love because Christ loved first, and hope because Christ rose again.
- The greatest witness may not be our victories, but our joyful endurance when life is unjust.
- Kingdom citizens are motivated by Gospel witness rather than fear or self-interest.

Where am I resisting authority?

Where am I clinging to my rights?

Where am I responding with anger or sarcasm instead of Christlikeness?