

“Stand Fast!”

The First Epistle of Peter

Lesson 5, for Sunday, November 11, 2001

For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

1 Peter 2:15, NAS

The Outline

- II. The chastened response of practical holiness (2:1-3:22)**
- C. Unimpeachable living, the answer to persecution (2:11-3:13).
1. Deference to statutes, officers, fellow citizens (2:11-2:17).
 2. Submission by servants, even to injustice (2:18-2:25).
 3. Deference of wives to husbands (3:1-3:6).
 4. Consideration for wives (3:7).
 5. Divine love among the saints (3:8-3:13).

The Argument

Do the right thing! The government was actually established by God for our good, and we are expected to live within the laws. Our Lord expects this of us, for we are to set an example for those who see us.

Do the right thing! Use your freedom in Christ for good, and not for evil. Serve the Lord in all that you do. Serve the Lord by honoring those who deserve such honor. Serve the Lord by loving your fellow believers. Serve the Lord through doing what civil laws require of you.

Do the right thing! When you serve, serve those whom you serve with a whole heart. Do so both when it is a pleasure and when it is a real pain. Our Lord sees your behavior, and this service will not go unnoticed. Serving with a good attitude when things go well is easy, while keeping that good attitude when things go badly is difficult. He knows full well when you are going the extra mile.

Do the right thing! Be an example to those around you. Although Our Lord was sinless, yet He was tortured and murdered without complaint.

He offered Himself up as the ultimate sin offering for us all, and yet trusted God throughout it all. Let Him be our example, as we are His people.

Do the right thing!

The Key Words

Submit: ὑποτάσσω -- put in subjection, subject, subordinate; pass. be subject, submit to, obey, be under the authority of; take a subordinate place (1 Cor 14.34); to bring something under the firm control of someone - 'to subject to, to bring under control. Example: 'the town secretary got the crowd under control' Ac 19.35.

Servant: οἰκέτης -- a servant in a household - 'house servant, household servant, personal servant.' Example: 'he called two of his personal servants' Ac 10.7.

Freedom: ἐλευθερία -- the state of being free - 'to be free, freedom.' Example: 'where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom' 2 Cor 3.17. In a number of languages the concept of freedom is expressed as a negation of control or domination, for example, 'where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is no longer domination' or '... a person is not dominated' or '... a person does not feel under constraint.'

Righteousness: δικαιοσύνη -- the act of doing what God requires - 'righteousness, doing what God requires, doing what is right.' Example: 'happy are those who suffer persecution because of their doing what God requires' Mt 5.10.

Sin: ἁμαρτάνω -- to act contrary to the will and law of God - 'to sin, to engage in wrongdoing, sin.' Examples: 'I will get up and go to my father and say, Father, I have sinned against God and against you' Lk 15.18; 'take no part in the sins of others' or 'do not join others in sinning' 1 Tm 5.22.

The Quotations

1 Peter 2:22 “... who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth ...” Isaiah 53:9