

## Called to Doing Good...While Suffering

“This Is The Way” Series – Part 11

**Connect question:** Describe a time in your youth when you got into really bad trouble that brought about negative consequences, and yet you felt you were innocent of wrongdoing.

**Introduction:** In our Bible text today, Peter, in his letter, addresses a common dilemma in our society: How does a Christian respond when experiencing unwarranted injustice from others? In the scriptures leading up to our text, Peter speaks about servants who are unfairly treated by their masters, and he follows up in the next chapter with the example of wives who are mistreated by their spouse. Both our Lord and the Apostle Paul stated that in following Jesus, our decision would eventually lead us in a path of suffering.

### Read 1 Peter 2:13-25

1Pe 2:13 For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state,  
1Pe 2:14 or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

1Pe 2:15 It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.

1Pe 2:16 For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil.

1Pe 2:17 Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

1Pe 2:18 You who are slaves must submit to your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel.

1Pe 2:19 For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment.

1Pe 2:20 Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

1Pe 2:21 For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

1Pe 2:22 He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.

1Pe 2:23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

1Pe 2:24 He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.

1Pe 2:25 Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

### Discussion:

1. What do you suppose are some injustices and trials New Testament readers faced (review 1 Peter 2:13-3:12 for possible mistreatments)?

2. In what ways do we find ourselves experiencing injustice, hurts, and oppression in the world we live in today?

3. In your own words, describe what it means for you to be a “slave” to Jesus Christ.

4. As we experience and witness injustices; and as we identify ourselves as slaves of Christ, what is the stated purpose for our life as found in 1 Peter 2:21?

5. Give examples of “doing good” in an unfair world?

6. Please note that Peter shifts from Christ as ‘example to follow’ (vs. 21-23) to Christ as ‘unique/personal redeemer’ (vs. 24-25). How do Christ’s examples of suffering for you affect your understand of suffering and compassion?

### **Homework:**

What truths from this discussion have been most meaningful to you. Spend a moment writing down the insights you have heard from others during this study that have enriched your own perspective.

What truths about Christ’s suffering have made Him appear more glorious or beautiful to you this week? Write a prayer praising Christ for His example of how to suffer ‘well’ and asking His help to face your struggles with His resources. Include your personal application in your prayer.