

Series: Relationship Reset
Title: Relationship with a Tough Boss
Scripture: 1 Peter 2:18-25
Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



How do we handle a tough _____?

1. _____ yourself to your _____.

1 Peter 2:18 ESV

Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

The Bible condemns chattel _____

1 Timothy 1:10 ESV

The sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine...

The Bible encourages you to get your _____, if you can.

1 Corinthians 7:21 ESV

Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)

1. Subject yourself to your boss

1 Peter 2:18 ESV

Servants, be **subject** to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

Good Boss

Bad Boss

1 Peter 2:18 ESV

Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the **unjust**.

2. Suffering well _____ and _____ to the grace of God

1 Peter 2:19-20 ESV

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.

Suffer with _____, not for being a _____

1 Peter 2:20 ESV

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.

_____ my boss is wrong, mistreats me, and doesn't do what I think they should... Then I will respond with...

_____ my boss is wrong, mistreats me, doesn't do what I think they should... I will respond with a mindfulness of God's work in my suffering

2. Suffering well brings and points to the grace of God

1 Peter 2:19-20 ESV

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.

Romans 8:28-29 ESV

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Matthew 5:10-12 ESV

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

"It is respectful submission to undeserved suffering that finds favor with God because such behavior demonstrates His grace." — Roger M. Raymer

3. Remember your greater calling because you've experienced Jesus

1 Peter 2:21-25 ESV

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.

**We get overly upset with our boss when our identity is in our _____.
But God wants our identity to be in Christ's _____ for us.**

**See yourself as a person who is placed at your _____ to show the
_____ of God to people who don't deserve it.**

"God not only sends ministers into the world to preach sermons, but also doctors to give medicine, and teachers to impart wisdom, and so on. Making clothes, practicing law, tilling fields, mending broken bodies, advancing science, or nurturing children all participate in God's work." — Tim Keller

How can you use your work to show God's grace?

Where do you need to respect your boss more?

Do you know that Jesus suffered, died and rose again for you?

09/28/25 Discussion Questions

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Getting to know you Questions:

- 1. What's the funniest excuse you've ever heard someone give for being late to work?**
- 2. What's one job you would absolutely never want to do, no matter how much it paid?**

Into the Bible Questions:

Read 1 Peter 2:18-25

- 1. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?**
- 2. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?**
- 3. Why do you think it's so hard to respect authority, even when the authority figure is decent?**
- 4. Why do you think Peter emphasizes showing respect to both good and unjust bosses?**
- 5. Can you think of a time when obeying or respecting a boss actually made things better in the long run?**
- 6. According to Peter, what's the difference between suffering because you're mistreated and suffering because of your own poor choices?**
- 7. How does Jesus' example in verses 21–25 reframe the way we think about workplace mistreatment?**
- 8. Why do you think Peter connects suffering at work to the suffering of Christ?**
- 9. How might showing respect and grace at work open a door for others to see Christ through you?**
- 10. How does seeing yourself as "placed by God" in your job change your perspective on difficult work situations?**

For Extra Study, Read Isaiah 53

- 1. How does Peter's description of Jesus' suffering in 1 Peter 2:21–25 echo the prophecy of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53?**
- 2. In both Isaiah 53 and 1 Peter 2, Jesus is described as silent and without retaliation when mistreated. What does this teach us about the way Christians can respond to unfair treatment?**

3. Isaiah 53 shows Jesus bearing the sins of others. Peter applies this to our workplaces and daily lives. How can remembering Jesus' sacrifice keep us from being consumed by resentment when we're treated unfairly?

4. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

5. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

1. Where do you need to show more respect to your boss (or teacher, leader, supervisor)?

2. How do you usually respond when your boss makes a decision you don't agree with? What would it look like to handle it with grace?

3. How does our natural "what if" response (e.g., what if my boss is wrong or unfair) get in the way of honoring God at work, and how can we respond with an "Even if" mindset?

4. What's one practical way you can "subject yourself" this week as a gift to your boss?

5. How can you avoid gossiping about your boss or coworkers, even when it feels justified?

6. When have you been tempted to slack off at work? How can you choose faithfulness instead?

7. How can you remind yourself that your ultimate identity is in Christ, not in your job?

8. What would it look like for you to answer, "I'm here to show the grace of God at my job" when someone asks what you do?