

Pastor Jonathan Pafford | February 22, 2026

1 Peter 2:11-25

Read for Next week 1 Peter 3:1-7

Timeless Truth: God calls His people to live righteously under authority according to Christ's example, even in suffering.

1. Submit to God for discernment in living under the authorities He allows (vv 11-17)

“abstain”

Submit to God without any reservations

Are there any reservations in your heart to withhold your submission to God?

Submit to human authorities with reservations

“Submit as free people...God's slaves”

Don't silence your voice

- *Pastor Erwin Lutzer – “We will not be Silenced”*
- *David Barton – Wall Builders that provides the truth of America's history*
- *Prager University – PragerU app*

Courage to resist Christless tyranny

- *Biblical examples (Moses, Daniel, the Old Testament prophets, Esther, Azariah, Mishael, Hananiah, Jesus, the apostles, saints who were martyrs)*

2. Honor God while working under business authorities whether they're kind or cruel (vv 18-20)

Slave/bond-servant - "Semi-permanent employee without legal or economic freedom"

phobos – a healthy desire to avoid displeasure

What should our attitude and work ethic be when we work under a cruel employer?

10 Decision Making Principles based on Scripture (by Pastor Blake Holmes)

1. *What Biblical principles should inform my decision? (Proverbs 2:6)*
2. *Do I have all the facts? (Proverbs 18:13)*
3. *Is the pressure of time forcing me to make a premature decision? (Proverbs 19:2)*
4. *What are the possible motives driving my decision? (Proverbs 16:2)*
5. *How should past experiences inform my decision? (Proverbs 26:11)*
6. *What is the collective counsel of my community? (Proverbs 11:14)*
7. *Have I honestly considered the warning signs? (Proverbs 10:17)*
8. *Have I considered outcomes for my course of action? (Proverbs 14:1)*
9. *Could this decision jeopardize my integrity or hinder my witness for the Lord? (Proverbs 25:26)*
10. *Is there a better option that would allow me to make a greater impact for God's Kingdom? (Proverbs 11:30)*

3. Follow Christ as both our example and motivation when suffering comes (vv 21-25)

God's call for us –

How do we patiently bear up under unjust suffering? (v.23)

"By his wounds you have been healed" –

What is Christ's relationship to His sheep who are facing suffering?