

Who's in Charge?

1 Peter 2:18-25

WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

Christian workers/laborers should be willing to follow Christ's example and suffer injustice and persecution, entrusting themselves to God so that His purposes and sovereignty win out.¹

1. Christian employees should submit to their bosses (v. 18–20)

- A. This is not limited to those employers (masters) who are **easy** to please. Submit to difficult leaders in the workplace, school, and volunteer organizations. (also, Eph. 6:5 Col. 3:22 Tim. 2:9 Jude 4)
- B. **God** is in charge. Seek His favor. When times get hard, Christian employees should focus on God rather than on circumstances.

2. Christ, the perfect One, gives us the example (v. 21–25)

- A. Christ was insulted but did not retaliate. He threatened no one. His words were pure, and his life blameless even unto death.
- B. He accepted suffering for others who are healed by his wounds (See Isaiah 53:1–12). Christ willingly suffered in our place to bring us salvation.
- C. Christian employees may be called to suffer and bring glory to God amid their circumstances. When this happens, they ought to follow the example of Christ's non-retaliation in the face of suffering.

CONCLUSION:

Peter is applying the principle given in 2:11–17, "Living a godly life among the spiritually lost brings glory to God." Work was mandated by God for humans when he entrusted the care of this world to us (Gen. 1:26-28). Sin added burdens to work and to human relations (Gen. 3:17-19). While work includes learning, volunteering, and the "sweat of your face" (Gen. 3:19), Peter explains that enduring suffering and persecution connects us to Christ. Such suffering points people to Christ since he suffered injustices in winning salvation for us.

Jesus has bestowed freedom upon us, and in the future, He will grant us authority (1 Cor. 6:3, God's people will judge angels). Today, none of us hold a position of great power. We are akin to lost sheep, turning to the Good Shepherd for our necessities. By maintaining this humble stance of submission, we earn the respect and attention of others and glorify God.