

Unshakeable: When Leadership Goes Wrong October 8, 2023

13 For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, 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.

15 It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 16 For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. 17 Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

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

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.

22 He never sinned,
 nor ever deceived anyone.
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.
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.
25 Once you were like sheep
 who wandered away.
But now you have turned to your Shepherd,
 the Guardian of your souls.

— 1 Peter 2:13-25

Discussion/Journal Questions

Have you ever suffered a situation you would consider unfair? Maybe it was with family or at work. What happened in that situation and how did you respond?

Read 1 Peter 2:13-25. What is your initial reaction to this passage? Is there anything here that challenges you? Why?

In the sermon, John makes the point that as Americans, we don't like to submit to authority unless we judge them worthy. Do you agree or disagree with this? Why?

In verse 21, who does Peter point to as our example for suffering well under injustice?

How did Jesus respond when the Jewish and Roman leaders treated Him unjustly? Why did He not fight back?

Peter and Paul both echo this theme of submission as an example of Jesus. What do you know about how these men handled themselves when treated unjustly?

Is it ever ok to practice civil disobedience? Why or why not?

If so, what are the limits to when, why, and how a Christian might practice civil disobedience?

What happens when we fail to keep the gospel of Jesus the main thing?

How can your group pray for you this week?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?