

SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 2:13–21. Also read verses 22–23 as you consider Jesus' example.

KEY TRUTH

Because we belong to Jesus, we honor others and keep doing good—even when they treat us wrong.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage say?)

- For whose sake does Peter tell believers to submit to governing authorities?
- According to verse 15, what is God's will for believers?
- How does Peter say Christians should—and should not—use their freedom?
- What four commands does Peter give in verse 17?
- Whose example does Peter call believers to follow in verse 21?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage mean?)

- How does this passage build on Peter's instruction in verses 11–12 to live honorably among unbelievers?
- How does doing something “for the Lord's sake” change our motivation for honoring people in authority?
- What is the difference between honoring someone and approving of everything they do?
- Why is the distinction between “fear God” and “honor the king” important? How does our allegiance to Jesus shape the limits of submission to human authority?
- What does Peter commend in verses 19–20? How is commending faithfulness under unjust treatment different from approving the mistreatment itself?
- According to verses 21–23, what does following Jesus' example look like when we suffer unjustly?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

(What does this mean for us?)

- What is your first instinct when someone treats you unfairly: defend yourself, withdraw, retaliate, complain, or something else?
- Where have you allowed someone else's wrongdoing to become your permission to respond wrongly?
- How might the question “Jesus, because I belong to You, how do You want me to respond?” change a situation you are facing?
- What would it look like to show integrity and respect toward a difficult boss, coworker, teacher, or coach?

- How could you address a legitimate concern without trying to embarrass or hurt the person involved?
- Does the way you speak about government leaders reflect Peter's command to honor? How could prayer change your attitude toward them?
- What encouragement do you find in knowing that God sees your faithfulness, even when others overlook or punish it?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

- Whose treatment of me is shaping my attitude and behavior?
- Have I made my obedience to Jesus depend on someone else changing?
- Am I seeking to resolve what is wrong, or to make someone pay?
- What do I need to entrust to the Father who judges rightly?
- What would following Jesus' steps look like in my next conversation or decision?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Identify one person you find difficult to honor. Pray for them by name each day, asking God to shape your attitude and help you respond faithfully. Choose one specific action: speak truthfully and respectfully, offer appropriate help, refuse to join in gossip, or apologize for your own wrongdoing. If you are facing abuse or threats, your step may be seeking safety and support from someone who can help. Doing good does not require putting yourself in danger.

Remind yourself each day:

"Because we belong to Jesus, we honor others and keep doing good—even when they treat us wrong."

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for loving you and giving Himself for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where anger, resentment, or the desire for revenge is shaping your responses. Ask for wisdom to address wrongdoing, courage to seek help when needed, and strength to honor others and keep doing good. Entrust the outcome to the Father who sees your faithfulness and judges rightly.