



Raise Them Right!

1 Peter #4 • June 21, 2026 (Father's Day)



1 Peter 2:11-25

“Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, 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. It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

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. For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. 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. 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. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. 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. 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. Once you were like sheep who wandered away.

But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.” (1 Peter 2:11–25, NLT)

Opening

Welcome back to our series on 1 Peter, a letter that offers hope with life is hard. Last week we took a little detour and focused on Vacation Bible School and how it is a microcosm of what matters to our church – who we should be, who we should care about, who we should honor.



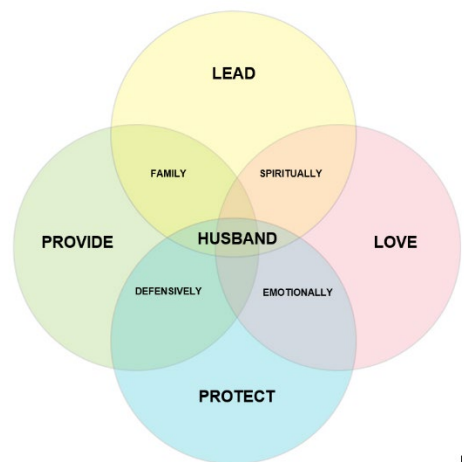
Today, on Father’s Day, we’re returning to Peter’s letter. And it’s not a mistake, even if it sounds a bit weird. Today’s passage doesn’t exactly give off “father” vibes. In fact, it would be more natural to talk about the next passage (chapter 3), where there are some comments about husbands...who likely are also dads!

But *every passage* is good for dads, because every passage gives us *truth* that we need to pass on to the next generation!

Dads, you have a crucial task in this world. You get to raise your children! You get to shape them and mold them into the kind of men and women this world needs. Moms do this, too; but men, as fathers you have the responsibility of leading your family and setting the example.

*I was talking to a friend of mine the other day, and he was sharing about his daughter and her boyfriend. Despite them being in their twenties, he was *still* actively trying to lead them and raise them to have the right focus.*

So, instead of just threatening him with a shotgun, he took the boyfriend out to dinner and talked about what kind of man the boyfriend needed to be for my friend’s daughter. He sketched out some different areas and said, “This is what you it takes to be a good husband.”



He put it in Venn diagram form (Yeah!), but he talked about how – as a husband/father – you need to be able to **lead, love, provide, and protect** for your wife and your family. He came up with a similar diagram for his daughter and shared with her.

I loved that my friend was actively looking to raise up the next generation to be godly and good for one another!

Dads, that's what we do! You might not do it with Venn diagrams (in fact, only a few of you could or should). But all of you have the awesome task and responsibility of sharing with your kids what truly matters! You need to show them what kind of people they need to be, and what kind of Christ-followers they must become. Other tasks are important – how to change a tire, how to shake hands, how to make eye contact with adults, how to stand up for what is right – but dads need to raise their kids to continually pursue Jesus, rather than allowing the world and its values to trickle in and undermine their faith and their future.

You need to raise them right!!!

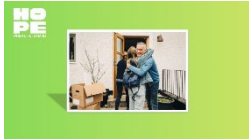
Dads, today's passage tells you some things that your kids *need* to know. And kids of dads (of all ages), you also need to know how your dads should be raising you. There are some counter-cultural choices in this passage that Christian dads must help their kids make if we are going to raise them right.

Raise Them to Grab a Green Card (1 Peter 2:11-12)

Dads, you need to raise your kids to grab a green card.

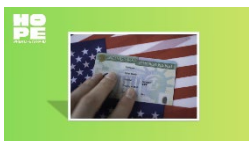
I'm not getting political here. "Green card" conversations are normally connected with immigration policies and debates (For those don't know, a "green card" is an identity document that people from another country must possess, showing that they have lawful presence here). We aren't talking about policy – I'm just borrowing the terminology to point out what Peter says in chapter 2.

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Dads, you need to raise them right!

HOPE



"Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior and they will give honor to God when he judges the world." (1 Peter 2:11-12, NLT)

HOPE

Dads, do you tell
your kids this world
is not their home?
(Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 13:14)

NO
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souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.” (1 Peter 2:11–12, NLT)

Dads, do you regularly tell your kids that this world is not their home?

Peter knows this fact. He and other early church leaders know that Christians don’t belong here. Paul says,

*“But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.”
(Philippians 3:20, NLT)*

The author of Hebrews says,

“For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.” (Hebrews 13:14, ESV)

As Christians, we are from elsewhere, and we need to keep that identity at the forefront of our lives. We do so with kindness and good behavior, but we should never seek to blend in!

I have been enjoying some of the stories from the World Cup, as soccer’s biggest national tournament is being held in the United States this summer. My favorite stories have come out of Boston, where Scotland has been playing. The Scottish fanbase came in droves to the city. They didn’t just show up in hotels and at soccer games, though. Instead, they have been inserting themselves into the local culture. Scottish fans headed to Fenway Park to watch a baseball game. And they did so in style – not blending in, but being as Scottish and soccer hooligan-esque as they could. They marched to the ballpark together, with bagpipes playing and people chanting, with flags and scarves and kilts blowing in the breeze. During the game, they sang with reckless abandon, filling the innings with soccer cheers and tunes. And after, they celebrated in typical Scottish style, drinking so much beer (4x normal!) that the Sam Adams pub ran out of its signature Boston lager!

I won’t endorse their levels of drinking, but I will praise the Scottish fans for modeling that which Peter describes. They were living as “temporary

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residents” in Boston. They didn’t seek to become like their host country; they brought their Scottish identity and were living with the knowledge that they will be heading back soon!



Dads, do you regularly tell your kids that this world is not their home?

- You should regularly **talk about the hope** we have of heaven – about going “home.”
- You should often **point out differences** between our way and the world’s – addressing themes in movies, challenging lyrics in songs, calling out positions held by politicians, etc.
- You should help them **set goals** in line with eternity – helping them see beyond the immediate goals of friends or finances or fame, and reframing those goals to help them protect their souls! You should be the primary person discipling them to honor Jesus as Lord and Savior

Dads, they need your guidance to live properly in this strange land. So don’t you get sucked in either! Don’t get comfortable here. Remember where “home” really is and raise your kids to grab their green cards...to live like aliens!

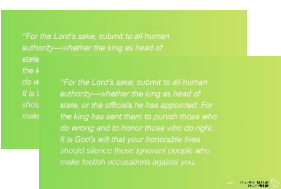


Raise Them to Offer a Salute (1 Peter 2:13-17)

Dads, you also need to raise your kids to offer a salute.

I promise, I’m not getting political here, either! A salute refers to the respect we offer to those in power...and recommending it may be one of the most divisive things you’ve heard me say from the pulpit. Why? Because suggesting support for the person in power is always going to sound repulsive to half the population.

But I’m not saying this on my own. I’m just quoting Peter.



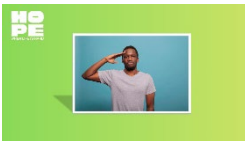
“For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.”

against you. For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king." (1 Peter 2:13-17, NLT)



Dads, some of you are raising kids with very strong positions (either aligning with or rebelling against what they've grown up with). They hear you talk about the political opposition with passion and vigor...and sometimes venom and disdain. At times it may be supportive beyond all reason, or disparaging beyond all logic.

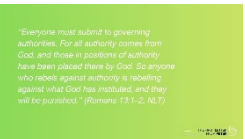
As an American, you are entitled to have opinions about the best way to manage our country's economy, military, judiciary, and regulatory systems. You can vote for policies you think are most favorable for our prosperity. You can and should try to educate your children to make wise decisions and to select good people who will rule well.



But as Christians, you are called to live in submission to those authorities once they are in position...regardless of whether they make the choices you support or not. You don't have the option of discarding your respect for those in power.

Why should we respect a Republican? Or a Democrat? Or a Socialist? Or a Monarch? Or a governor? Or a mayor? Because, as Peter said, **God has appointed them.** Paul shares the same view:

"Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished." (Romans 13:1-2, NLT)



Now, don't think that Peter (or Paul) was simply spouting "pro-government" ideology here. Peter knew that governments and authorities could be wrong and could threaten his livelihood. In his day, the government was corrupt and harsh. Caesars ruled the empire. Those appointed by Caesar had great latitude to make life miserable for the general population. Peter paid unfair taxes. Peter's free speech was restricted. Peter was persecuted by the state... and eventually executed by them, just like they did to Jesus.

He knew the system was broken! But if you know you are a citizen of a better country, you aren't obsessed with the government where you are. You live under their rule. You tolerate their failings. You let them make their mistakes and you move on in the interest of your own King!



If Christians live the way they should, they make any and every socio-economic and political system better! When Christians follow Jesus, they make life in a democracy better. When Christians follow Jesus, they make life under communism better. When Christians follow Jesus, they make life in a monarchy better.

There may be extreme cases where our loyalties force a decision. As one commentator said: *“Normally duties to God and Caesar do not conflict, and Christians can obey both (Matt 22:15–21); but in special cases their higher loyalty is clear: “We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:29).¹*

Such cases, though, are rare. As Christians are told how to act generally.

“Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”

(1 Peter 2:17, ESV)

Dads, do you demonstrate respect and honor for the authorities God has allowed to be in place? Are you raising your kids to be respectful of people on both sides of the political aisle...even when you disagree about their effectiveness or motives? Are you training them to trust that the King of Kings is (and has been...and will be) Lord over politics?

If so...

- You should **regularly pray** for your leaders – for their wisdom and decisions.
- You should **do what is required** when it comes to regulations and taxes – so there may be no accusations that come between others and the gospel.
- You should use **terms of respect** (ex: President _____) when speaking of them.

¹ Blum, E. A. (1981). [1 Peter](#). In F. E. Gaebeline (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Hebrews through Revelation* (Vol. 12, p. 234). Zondervan Publishing House.

Dads, your kids need your example when it comes to this kind of godly engagement with politics and political leaders. Raise your kids (regardless who it is offered to) to offer a salute (because of Who it is that stands above and behind them)



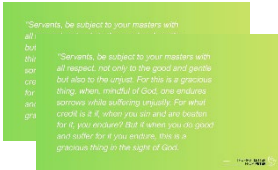
Raise Them to Suffer Like Jesus (1 Peter 2:18-25)

Did I say that the last point was one of the most divisive things you've heard me say from the pulpit? Maybe this last one is worse.

Dads, do you prepare your kids to suffer like Jesus?

"Raise your kids to suffer like Jesus"? Yes. That's what I said. And I don't like it either.

As Peter moves into an application of truth to the household, he starts talking to servants (aka "slaves." NOTE: This is a different culture. The practice of slavery is not endorsed here; Peter is just dealing with the reality that it existed...therefore, how should Christians who are slaves live?). And Peter says some things to them that are tough to swallow, regardless of our position in the household.



"Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 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. 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." (1 Peter 2:18-21, ESV)

Okay...let's look at this closely.

- Peter is NOT saying:
 - o Slavery is good
 - o Beatings are wonderful
 - o Suffering is great

- Peter IS saying:
 - o Bad behavior happens
 - o Bad treatment isn't always deserved
 - o How you handle undeserved bad treatment *matters*

Dads, I'm not saying **prepare your kids to suffer**.

I'm saying that your kids (since they live in this fallen, broken world) **WILL** suffer. And your job is to **prepare your kids to suffer like Jesus**.

If they suffer, let it be because of good and/or because of Jesus:

A kid gets beat up for saying mean things to another kid....or a kid gets beat up for inviting other kids to church. I'd rather my kid not get beat up, but if it happens I'd rather it be for the second reason, right?

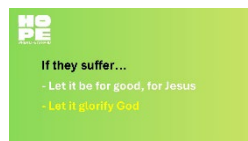
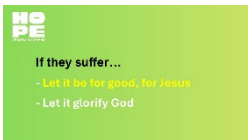
“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:10–12, ESV)

If they suffer, let it glorify God.

I once hurt myself putting on a pair of bowling shoes. It was a weird accident – I pulled while my finger was stuck in the shoe, and a tendon pulled. Meanwhile, a member of our church got hurt while fighting a fire in the community. I'd rather neither of us got hurt, but I'd rather the injury come in service to others and protecting the community instead of in a stupid bowling shoe fiasco!

To suffer for the sake of others, trying to do good for them and present them with the path of rescue and salvation? That glorifies God! That kind of suffering is worthy of honor.

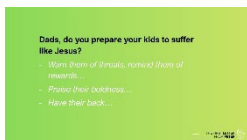
- It's like a guitar that was beat up because Willie Nelson was playing it every night.
- It's like a soldier's rifle that was damaged on Omaha Beach on D-Day.
- It's like a pair of shoes with worn-out soles because Fred Astaire had danced in them too much.





Or, for a more biblical example that Peter pulls out...it's like Jesus, who gave everything as He redeemed us from sin.

“He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 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. 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.” (1 Peter 2:22–24, ESV)

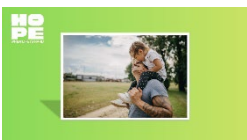


Dads, do you prepare your kids to suffer like Jesus?

- Do you **warn them** of the threats they might face...but also remind of the eternal rewards they will gain?
- Do you **praise their boldness** when you see them make righteous decisions?
- Do you **have their back** when you see them following Jesus? Defending their decisions and showing your support?

Dads, your kids need your encouragement to do right, regardless of the cost. They need to know that following the example of Jesus matters more than anything else. They need to be reminded – and so do we – that our conduct, especially when it receives unearned suffering, is a powerful testimony to a watching world. We must be ready to take it on the chin now for the sake of others, just like Jesus took it for you. Prepare your kids to be like Him...even in suffering.

Closing



Dads, you have an obligation to raise godly children. You get to raise them! You get to shape them and mold them into the kind of men and women this world needs. As fathers you have the responsibility of leading your family to follow the example of Jesus.

So, be willing to lead them differently than the culture expects. You can...

- Raise Them to Grab a Green Card and live like exiles
- Raise Them to Offer a Salute and honor God-appointed leaders
- Raise Them to Suffer Like Jesus and endure bad for following good

And if you do that, you'll raise your kids to raise a hallelujah! This Father's Day, I don't think you could ask for anything better!



Prayer

Invitation

Sermon Notes

Raise Them to Grab a Green Card

(1 Peter 2:11-12; Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 13:14)

Raise Them to Offer a Salute

(1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1-2)

Raise Them to Suffer Like Jesus

(1 Peter 2:18-21; Matthews 5:10-12; 1 Peter 2:22-24)

Sermon Discussion Questions

- (OPTIONAL) What are some of the important lessons you learned (or wish you learned) from your father?
- Did your dad teach you what it means to really live like a Christian? What kinds of spiritual conversations did you have with him?
- If this world is not my home (see 1 Peter 2:11-12), why does my conduct here matter? What kind of behavior should define my stay in this temporary location?
- Are your goals for this world or for the next? How does living in light of eternity change what you value?
- Why should Christians be respectful of authorities? Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. What might “respect” look like in today’s culture?
- Write the names of your President, senators, representatives, and governor. How could you demonstrate respect and honor for them, knowing that God allowed them to be in this position of power?
- Have you ever suffered? Have you ever suffered for your faith? What is the difference?
- Read Matthew 5:10-12. What blessings come with suffering?
- Read 1 Peter 2:22-24. How did Jesus suffer for you?
- (OPTIONAL) Pray for the fathers in our congregation. Pray that they would be focused on raising kids who follow their example of following Jesus.
-