

**1. What did the text mean to the biblical audience? Structure diagram 1 Peter 2:13-25**

**Be subject** for the Lord's sake to every human institution,

whether it be to the emperor as supreme,

<sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil

and to praise those who do good.

<sup>15</sup> For **this is the will of God**,

that by doing good

you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

<sup>16</sup> **Live as people who are free**,

not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil,

but living as servants of God.

<sup>17</sup> **Honor** everyone.

Love the **brotherhood**.

**Fear God**.

**Honor** the emperor.

<sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all **respect**,

not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

<sup>19</sup> For this is a **gracious thing**,

when, **mindful of God**, one **endures sorrows while suffering unjustly**.

<sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> 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**.

<sup>22</sup> He committed no sin,

neither was deceit found in his mouth.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

<sup>24</sup> 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.**

<sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep,  
but have now returned to the Shepherd and **Overseer of your souls.**

### **Truths From Cross References:**

#### **Be subject:**

Romans 13:1

-But when human authority directly contradicts God, believers follow Acts 5:29: “We must obey God rather than men.” This is where the idea comes from that we obey government until it commands what God forbids or forbids what God commands.

-If a law is morally neutral or even inconvenient, Christians still obey it (taxes, speed limits, building codes, etc.).

-If a law would require sin (e.g., banning gospel preaching, mandating idolatry, forbidding core Christian obedience), then a Christian respectfully disobeys the law and accepts any consequences, while keeping a submissive, non-rebellious attitude.

**This is the will of God:** sometimes God’s will is explicit, clearly defined.

John 6:40

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Live as people who are free:** living as servants of God

John 8:34-36

Romans 6:17-18

**Honor:** respect

**Love:** agape – show love, show value in tangible actions

**Brotherhood:** church

**Fear God:** a profound awe of God’s holiness, majesty, and sovereignty that makes us humble, teachable, and obedient.

Proverbs 9:10 meaning we stand in awe of the “great and awesome God”

Nehemiah 1:5

Fear of God isn’t terror of punishment for believers but a familial fear—like a child’s respect for a holy Father—that drives worship, reliance, and moral living.

Fear of God is approaching Him with majesty and wonder, not casualness.

Fear God restrains sin and fuels prayer.

Fear of God displaces rival fears, leading to bold faith.

**Enduring sorrows while suffering unjustly – this is your calling:** totally contrary to our fallen human nature

Credit (v.20) = an act of honor to God, favor with God

Gracious thing to God (v.20) = a kindness toward God

Clarified application in 1 Peter 3:9

Christ is our example of this (v.21) = Enduring unjust suffering patiently shows God because it makes the suffering of Christ real to people.

**Entrust yourself to God in unjust suffering who judges justly:** you are not saying justice doesn't matter; you are saying that God is the final judge and will settle accounts justly. My abuser will not have the last say. God will have the last say.

**Overseer of your souls:** guardian, keeper, supervisor

Does God will the unjust suffering of his people? 1 Peter 2:21; 3:17; 4:19

What is it about God that is shown through our patient endurance of unjust suffering?

1 Peter 2:9

1 Peter 4:19

1 Peter 5:9

1 Peter 5:10-11

Where is the justice for those who commit unjust suffering upon?

Revelation 6:12-17