

Three things:

1. Peter gives instructions to servants who are believers in their relationship with their masters.
2. Peter provides insight to the way that Christians are called to respond to harsh treatment from unbelievers.
3. This passage allows us to see some implications for relationships that help us navigate the difficulties we experience with others.

In a world marred by the stain of sin, God gives Christians instruction on how to live in the freedom of Christ, regardless of the situation.

Instruction #1: Submit to those in authority over you, even if they are unjust.

Instruction #2: Live for God in all situations, even if it results in suffering

Insight #1: It's human nature to prioritize your well-being and your reputation, the problem is that human nature is sinful.

Insight #2: God's people serve through suffering, because the one we serve suffered first.

Jesus is the example we follow in our suffering.

1. Jesus didn't threaten anyone or publicly defend himself
2. Jesus trusted the Father to do what is right
3. Jesus suffered to the point of death
4. Jesus died to redeem and reconcile sinners to the Father

Application #1: Christian responsibility follows the redeeming work of Christ.

Application #2: Christians have a responsibility to learn how to think Christianly about their circumstances and actions.

Thinking Christianly about difficult relationships and situations:

1. You need to know the definition of persecution
2. The difference between relationship consequences and persecution.
3. Forgiveness does not negate consequences in relationships

Being given the opportunity to rebuild trust is result of forgiveness.

Forgiving and enduring are possible through the power of the Holy Spirit