

1 PETER 2:11-20

September 8, 2019

TODAY'S TEXT—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

Text: 1 PETER 2:11-20

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. ¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. ¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

FIRST THOUGHTS

- Contrast the best boss and the worst boss you've ever had. What sets them apart? How did it affect your attitude about work, your performance, and your life outside of work?

EXPLORE THE TEXT

IN CULTURE

> Read 1 Peter 2:11-12

- Peter used words like "strangers and temporary residents" to illustrate a Christian's earthly existence (v. 11). What do those terms mean to you? What do they tell us about our real home? What do they tell us about how we should behave in our temporary home?
- How do "sinful desires" wage war with our soul?
- How does it feel to be accused of doing wrong? Have you ever been accused of doing something wrong when you were trying to live according to God's standards?
- In a world full of do-gooders, how do Christians' good works point to the glory of God? What distinguishes Christians' good works from others'?

TOWARD OFFICIALS AND LEADERS

> Read 1 Peter 2:13-17

- How would someone use their freedom as a cover-up for evil?
- How does being a law-abiding citizen following man-made rules reflect positively on God?
- Why should we be subject to man-made laws when God is the higher authority?
- How are we to discern when we should follow God's higher law instead of man-made laws?

THROUGH YOUR WORK

> Read 1 Peter 2:18-20

- ° How does one person's willingness to accept authority over them in the workplace, school, or military affect those around them?
- ° Why would Peter ask Christians to respond respectfully not only to good masters but dishonorable ones?
- ° How will submission to authorities impact your devotion to God?
- ° Most everyone has experienced being treated unfairly or harshly by our boss. How do these verses help us in knowing how to respond?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

Share: Believers are to be exemplary members of their community, having a positive influence. Believers demonstrate trust in God by respecting their local government leaders. Invite volunteers to share an example of a believer who exemplifies this truth.

Challenge: How can you become a better servant to your earthly authorities? Review the way you handle yourself at home, in the workplace, at church, and in your community. Do you give visible support to your spouse, your pastor, your boss, and your elected leaders in conversation and in action? Make a list of ways that you could become outwardly more supportive.

Pray: List the names of local government leaders. Take time to pray for them, that God will use them for His purposes and to bring about good in your community. Consider ways of letting these leaders know you pray for them.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Read 1 Peter 3:13-22
- Think about how the tone of a message affects how it's received. The Gospel is the most important message ever shared. But often our tone has diminished its reception.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

8th – Jeremiah 42-44; Psalm 48; Revelation 13 | **9th** – Lamentations 1- 2; Obadiah; Revelation 14 | **10th** – Lamentations 3-5; Revelation 15 | **11th** – Daniel 1-2; Revelation 16 | **12th** – Daniel 3-4; Psalm 81; Revelation 17 | **13th** – Ezekiel 33-35, Revelation 18 | **14th** – Ezekiel 36-37; Psalm 110; Revelation 19

Our Mission:

TO KNOW GOD AND BE
CHANGED BY HIM IN A
WAY THAT WILL CHANGE
THE WORLD.

Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH FOR
THE UNCHURCHED,
HERE AND AROUND
THE WORLD.

Adult LifeGroups:

INVITE AND INVEST IN
THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST.
CREATE COMMUNITY.
MAKE DISCIPLES.