

## **Preaching Submission in a My Rights World (1 Peter 2:11-3:12)**

The subject of submission is not comfortable subject in our contemporary culture. The subject of submission is even more complex when submission comes in the context of suffering. In this session, we will consider how Peter identifies believers in their Lord, the submissive sufferer. Together we will work on outlining a text within the section.

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### **I. Outline of the section**

#### A. Living the exile paradigm, 2:11-12

1. Abstain from sin, 2:11
2. Adopt a good conduct, 2:12a
3. Anticipate results, 2:12b

#### B. Applying the paradigm in the world, 2:13-17

1. Don't do or cover-up evil, 2:14 & 16
2. Do good, 2:13-15
3. The result, 2:15
4. Honor man vs fear God, 2:17

C. Applying the paradigm in the workplace, 2:18-25

1. The servant in the workplace, 2:18-20
2. The Suffering Servant, 2:21-25
  - a. He committed no sin, 22-23
  - b. He bore our sins, 24a
  - c. By His wounds we are..., 24b-25
3. The Shepherd of our souls, 2:25

D. Applying the paradigm in the home, 3:1-7 (Group exercise: outline the text)

E. Applying the paradigm in the church, 3:8-12

1. Turn away from evil, 3:9a, 10-11a
2. Pursue what is good, 3:8, 9b, 11b
3. God's present and future blessing, 3:12

## **II. Preaching Submission**

A. Tackling S Word

B. For the Lord's sake

C. Called to live a Christ-like and cross-shaped life

D. Influencing when you are not an influencer

## **III. Going Deeper: Discussion Questions**

- A. How do Peter's exhortations contrast with the typical stance in our society?
- B. Is it appropriate to apply Peter's exhortation to household servants to the twenty-first century workplace?
- C. Why does Peter preach the message of the cross amid practical exhortations?

1 Peter 2:11–3:12 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution,<sup>[b]</sup> whether it be to the emperor<sup>[c]</sup> 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<sup>[c]</sup> 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.

**3** Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup> when they see your respectful and pure conduct. <sup>3</sup> Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— <sup>4</sup> but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. <sup>5</sup> For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup> as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. <sup>7</sup> Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For

“Whoever desires to love life  
and see good days,  
let him keep his tongue from evil  
and his lips from speaking deceit;  
<sup>11</sup> let him turn away from evil and do good;  
let him seek peace and pursue it.  
<sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their prayer.  
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”