

# 1 Peter

## Outline

Lesson 1

Living *Hope* through Christ's Resurrection (1:1-12)

Lesson 2

*Hope*-produced Holiness of Living (1:13 - 2:12)

### Lesson 3

***Hope*-produced Submission to One Another (2:13 - 3:12)**

Lesson 4

*Hope* in the Midst of Suffering for Christ (3:13 - 4:19)

Lesson 5

Shepherds Lead with *Hope* and Humility (5:1-14)

## Introduction

Which of the following is true?

“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.”

“A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”

### Submission as citizens: 2:13-17

What connotations does the word “submit” have?

What was the political situation in Peter’s time?

How do our good works “silence the ignorant talk of foolish men?”

How do you as a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century submit to various government authorities?

What are some moral issues that cause you to question your role to submit to government? What are the exceptions to our responsibility to submit as citizens of this country?

### Submission as workers: 2:18-25

What social class does Peter address in this section?

What sounds strange, especially from a worldly perspective, about Peter’s command in verses 18-20?

How can your submission as an employee and the respect that you show at work be a powerful witness to your unbelieving coworkers?

Are there any exceptions to Peter’s command to submit to masters/bosses? What are they?

As we are called to submit both as citizens and employees, how is Christ an example? How is he more than an example? (Verses 21-25)

Agree or disagree: A Christian should never try to change his or her situation in life. Rather, our job is to take what God has given, good or bad, and endure it with perseverance.

### **Wives and husbands: 3:1-7**

Earlier we discussed society's concept of submission. How does the biblical concept of submission change the way we understand God's will for a wife to submit to her husband?

How might the behavior of a believing wife win over an unbelieving husband?

Is it wrong for women to braid their hair and wear jewelry and fine clothing? What, then, is Peter's point about a woman's beauty in verse 3-6?

Peter cautions Christian wives not to "give way to fear" (verse 6). What fears could a wife face in this matter?

Husbands are not off the hook... What command does Peter give them in verse 7?

Respond: "What Peter commands wives and husbands was specific to his time and society. Furthermore, his assessment of woman being the weaker partner is misogynistic and out of date."

What further evidence is there in verse 7 that submission is not equivalent to inferiority?

### **Summary: 3:8-12**

Having given specific instructions to various groups in the section beginning with 2:13 (citizens, slaves, wives, husbands), Peter concludes the section with instructions that apply equally to all Christians. Whether we are interacting as citizens, employees, or spouses, God's will is that those relationships be characterized by humility, love, and compassion.

To love and respect those who reciprocate is only human nature. To show love and respect even when those sentiments are not returned is a Christ-like attitude.

### **For study at home**

Read Romans 13:1-7. What purpose does government serve and why should we submit?

Read Ephesians 5:22-33. What model of submission does Paul give in this passage for husbands and wives?

### **Next time**

Lesson 4 – *Hope* in the Midst of Suffering for Christ (3:13 - 4:19)