

Study 5

Good lives

1 Peter 2:11-25

A Living Hope

1 Peter

1 Peter 2:11-12 serves as an introduction to a collection of practical instructions about Christian living. These cover a number of aspects of daily life, in particular our attitude to the secular authorities (2:13-18), the relationship between slaves and masters (i.e. work relationships) (2:18-25) and the relationship between husbands and wives (3:1-7). Of course, these are complex areas of life and one does not expect these texts to say everything that can be said. This is where our introductory verses become so important, for they give us the context within which the later verses should be understood. What Peter is primarily concerned about in what follows, is our witness as believers before a watching world. We are to live good lives so that those who are watching us may be won over to the Lord and so give glory to Him on the day of His visitation (the day of judgement). This gospel motivation is a strong incentive to behave in ways which are different from the world and contrary to our natural instincts.



Read 1 Peter 2:11-25

1. What are some of the main challenges that we face as we think about submission to the governing authorities in our time and place?

2. What does Peter say is the role of the governing authorities under God?



3. Does being submissive to the authorities mean we should always obey them? Why or why not?

4. What potential danger does Peter seem to be concerned about for his Christian hearers?

5. How do we reconcile “Live as free people” with “Submit”?



6. How should Christ’s example shape our response to unjust treatment? What does this mean in practice?

7. What will enable us to persevere in living like Christ in an unjust world?