

**PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY:  
RESPONDING RIGHT WHEN WE ARE TREATED UNFAIRLY**

*Houses of Light Church • June 11 y 12, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez*

**1 Ped. 2:18-20**

***'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.'***

**I. INTRODUCTION**

A. This portion of the letter speaks of a very unfair situation; slaves had no rights, they were the property of their master. Slavery was an ungodly institution of the empire in which people were brutalized and the New Testament does not engage in a frontal attack against slavery **but in giving us a powerful truth that is capable of changing even the dynamics of slavery.**

B. This is the general message: **Do good despite being treated unfairly, being aware of God and not of the unjust master because he does not have the last word in your life. This is the general message of this letter.**

**1 Ped. 4:19 "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good"**

C. Not only slaves but all of us are told to do good when we are suffering. We are told here that being treated badly and being cursed instead of getting even we should bless.

D. When slaves are told to submit to their masters, what can distinguish this instruction as Christian? Which is ***"For the Lord's sake"* (1 Pet. 2:13)** as we have seen. What it means is that this master or boss is not our ultimate master but the Lord and it is because of Him that we submit.

**1 Ped. 2:16 "Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God."**

E. That is, live as slaves who are free, not using freedom as an excuse to do evil, but as servants of God. For just as our Lord (with a capital L) sent us to submit to rulers, so he sends us to submit to earthly masters as free people in the Lord.

**1 Cor. 7:21-22 "Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) <sup>22</sup> For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ."**

F. **In other words, your condition before the Lord is much more decisive than any other condition. If you are a Christian slave, submit to your master for**

the Lord's sake knowing that Christ bought your true freedom. You are free and the reason why you submit to this master is not because of this master himself, nor his authority, threats or power, but because of the authority of our ultimate master who is Jesus. **Radical changes occur in the dynamics of how a slave thinks about his earthly master.** Then it is not servile subjection to a master but a Christian subjection.

- G. When he says **"with all due respect"** he means respect and reverence for the Lord. The previous verse says: **"fear God"** and right here it says **"before God"** **The way in which you are able to submit even if you are treated unfairly is because we are before God not so much before the master or boss.** The fear of the Lord is not a fear like that of a slave who feels intimidated because he is a coward; rather it is a fear of treating God as if He is not trustworthy as the loving Father that He is, that is what he said before:

**1 Pet. 1:17 "And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile."**

- H. This is something very positive, that the fear of God, of displeasing him and of treating him as if he were not a Father who supplies you and takes care of you leads you to act well despite being treated badly. May that be what you have in mind when you are enduring afflictions of being treated unfairly.
- I. Another thing that makes our subjection to earthly masters something Christian is to ask ourselves, why does this slave suffer if he is subjecting himself to the master? **Because it may be that our doing well is something that the master does not like, which tells us that submitting to him is not the highest priority, but doing well before God.** If doing well is something that your boss sees wrong, you will continue to do what is good. In summary there are three reasons why the subjection of this slave is something Christian not just a tradition:
1. We submit for the Lord's sake, as free people who are sent by the Lord to serve because the Lord told us.
  2. We submit out of fear of God, aware that He is our Father who deserves all our trust in the midst of unfair treatment.
  3. We submit and are even willing to suffer if doing what God says could be seen as insubordination on the part of the master..

## II. WHAT IS THE MOTIVATION FOR THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR?

- A. In this section the phrase **"this is a gracious thing in the sight of God"** is mentioned twice. The motivation is that when you are suffering unjustly with a difficult master to tolerate, instead of thinking about that master, you remember God because He sees what you are experiencing, when you return good for evil it is something beautiful before God. Peter tells us about having this type of behavior not only to the servants but to everyone.

**1 Pet. 3:14 y 17 " But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled... 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil."**

- B. Peter is simply taking Christian principles, motivations, and behavior and applying them to servants, but we need to know that the same principles apply to everyone. We must take them into account in our relationships of subjection to authority.

### **III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PLEASING TO GOD?**

- A. It is not only beautiful to God, it also implies a benefit and a class of rewards. In his letter Peter refers to the words of Jesus over and over again.

**Luc. 6:32-36 "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."**

**Matt. 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."**

- B. When Peter says here that it is pleasing before God to suffer afflictions unjustly, he does not mean that only in the present God looks at us with pleasure, **he also means that your reward is coming.**

**1 Ped. 3:9 "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.."**

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

- A. **We will receive blessing if we bless those who curse us.** This is precious to God because we will be abundantly rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ (**Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10**). In conclusion, when you are suffering unfairly and this applies to all of us, we must:
  1. Take into account the favor of God, He sees it as something beautiful.
  2. Knowing that it will be returned to us in glorious eternal rewards.
- B. **There is no way to survive injustices without the confidence that God takes into account what we are suffering and He considers our enduring this as something beautiful.**

**Rom. 8:17-18 "and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified**

**with him. Future Glory 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."**

#### **V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- 1. How has your reaction been so far when you have been treated unfairly?**
- 2. Which of the principles presented in this teaching can help you better respond when you are being treated unfairly?**
- 3. Take time in the Friendship Group to pray, bless and forgive any kind of injustice.**

#### **THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Vacation Bible School for children ages 4-12 will be held July 18-22. Please register your children at the children's ministry office in the front building.**
- Affirming Your Steps (AYS) in English will be teaching an intensive course during the summer, from July 11 to August 15. Our goal is to finish before the school year begins! Please register at [www.housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)**
- Young Adults who wish to seek the face of Jesus and grow in community are invited to the prayer set on Wednesdays from 8:00-10:00 p.m. Your children are welcome!**