

The Epistle of First Peter  
"The Bases of Christian Submission"  
1 Peter 2:21-25

Intro. 1. The proper character of those who are true believers on Christ is submission within designated spheres.

2. The proof for Peter's contention in submission for Christians is drawn from the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. It stands as an amazing situation that Christology alone is the great bulwark for practical issues of Christianity. Doctrine always stands as the girding for practice.

4. In what areas does Peter declare the Lord Jesus as buttressing his contention?

1. The power of Christ's example. vv. 21-23.

His suffering was exemplary in that He suffered:

a. Undeservedly--He did no sin.

b. Patiently--Neither was guile found in His mouth.

c. Piously--When He was reviled, He reviled not again.

2. The power of Christ's sacrifice. v. 24.

Here is another holy influence pressed by Peter for the submission principle he has urged upon believers.

Christ's sacrifice included these features:

a. It was substitutionally made (vicariously).

1) His own self--Christ alone was the Substitute!

2) Bare our sins--this makes His death penal.

The Roman gibbet was the curse!--not in His life.

The full picture here is of the Levitical priests who presented sacrifices, but here Christ presented HIMSELF. Glory to God.

b. It was consequentially made.

1) Dead to sins. The very acts of sin were dealt a lethal blow at the Cross. Cf. Rom. 6:10 for the principal of sin in this connection.

2) Should live unto righteousness. This car-

ries the thought of living under the influence of a justified state. Oh, to live like a person declared righteous.

c. It was effectually made.

1) Stripes. Here are welts rising in the flesh which bring healing! What a paradox.

2) Healed. Not from sickness, but sin. N.D.: the sad controversy over the power of the Lord to heal is clearly decided by a careful understanding of Matt. 8:17 and the present context with Isa. 53:4, 5.

3. The power of Christ's care. v. 25.

The care of our Lord includes:

a. Salvation. "Ye were as sheep going astray but are now returned." Cf. Luke 22:32 for the same verb. How fresh it all was in Peter's mind.

b. Provision. "Shepherd." The term employed here carries with it the idea of tending sheep. How plentifully He meets the needs of His own.

c. Protection. "Bishop." This is related to the word rendered "visitation" in v. 12. It means an overseer. He is the tender of our souls.

Note: In the original Greek, there is one article which links the Shepherd and the Bishop, hence the two are bound in one glorious Person--our Lord Jesus ~~Christ~~ Christ. As an undershepherd, the local pastor is to exercise both of these functions under Christ, as Christ did under the Father.

Conclusion: How does this fit into the topic of submission? Well, the Lord experienced all that has been elucidated herein to the end that we might come under His provision and protection and enjoy a life of righteousness. We are therefore to take our places, ordained of God, and manifest righteousness in every area of our beings. How does this match with your life?