

Our Ultimate Example! Any Questions?¹ 1 Peter 2:16–25

In Summary: How to act like a Christian in an alien land!

¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ **Honor** everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. **Honor** the emperor.

What if I'm being mistreated?

¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all **respect**,
not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing,
when, mindful of God,
one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

**What does it mean to
be mindful of God?**

Make sure you're not being treated badly for your own stuff.

²⁰ For what credit is it if,
when you sin and are beaten for it,
you endure?

What acting like a Christian looks like to God Himself.

But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure,
this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

Back to our vocation! (cf. 2:9, 15, 16)

²¹ For to this you have been called,

OUR SUPREME EXAMPLE!!!!

because Christ also suffered for you,
leaving you an example,
so that you might follow in his steps.

²² He committed no sin,
neither was deceit found in his mouth.

²³ 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.

Do you remember what He accomplished in his servanthood?

Do you remember where you were?

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ For you were straying like sheep,
but have now returned to the Shepherd
and Overseer of your souls.

Think about this; none of us will probably face the kind of social situation that Peter was writing to. We live in a kind of freedom most of humanity has never known (note the dangers of freedom in v.16). Now, take a close look at the response he calls for and why. Is there any reason at all, any circumstance we are in, that justifies making this irrelevant to our lives?

¹ Message prepared by and shared with the congregation of West Salem Baptist Church & Extended Family by Dr. Paul Null, Sunday, May 17, 2020. Citations from Scripture are from the English Standard Version of the Bible.