

February 7, 2021

The Ministry of Hope: Hope Claims Us as Aliens and Exiles in this World

1 Peter 2:18-25 – Christian Slaves Will Submit to their Earthly Lords

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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ For to this you have been called, 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. 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 (see also Ezek. 34:11-13).

v. 18- “servants” literally “household-servants” who *are* aliens through faith do not lose this earthly relationship, nor can they claim liberation from duty.

v. 19 applies much more widely than just in this relationship, where can we apply it?

v. 20- *suffering* when you do what is right is a gracious thing for you...it’s even our calling!

v. 21- “an example”- With only one exception, when Scripture presents Christ as an example it is always with reference to His willingness to suffer and die (Phil. 2:5; John 13:15; 15:12; 1 John 3:16; Heb. 12:2) 1 John 2:6 is the exception

v. 22- direct quote of Is. 53:9 – Isaiah 53 is quoted/alluded to ≈ five times in these four verses

v.21-25- What impact does this focus on Christ’s suffering have on Peter’s hearers?
“Shepherd and Bishop of your souls” – the “first pope” tells the Church who her Shepherd is!

How can we apply the Bible’s teaching on *slavery* and servanthood?

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1 Peter 3:1-6 – Christian Wives Yield to their Husbands’ Authority as Head of the Household
Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure (*or chaste*) conduct. ³Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴but [*let your adorning be*] the hidden person of the heart with the imperishability ~~beauty~~ of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. ⁵For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (*Gen. 18:12*). And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

v. 1- What is the ultimate goal in this verse? (think about 1 Ptr 2:12 & Matt. 18, as well)
How do reverence and chastity work towards winning an unbelieving spouse?

v.3-4- Not external, but hidden – what should mark or distinguish Christian women?
What are some ways to practice and encourage this modesty?
What is precious before God? Why should this matter most?

vv.5-6 Following holy examples from Scripture is a good discipline
“do not fear anything that is frightening” – an admittedly difficult phrase to understand

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1 Peter 3:7 – Christian Husbands Respect their Wives

⁷Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

This must be taken alongside the goals in vv.1-6: Evangelism of an unbelieving spouse and Doxology to God through a particular conduct- being understanding and showing honor.

“live with...heirs with” – equal before God in terms of grace, different in terms of calling

“in an understanding way” is literally “according to knowledge” as opposed to Ignorance

“showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel” – why is this objectionable to moderns?

Co-heirs of grace, to the end that prayers be fulfilled rather than hindered

Luther: “In my opinion, it means what I have said, namely, that a husband must bear in mind that his wife is a Christian too and is God’s work or vessel. Both should conduct themselves in such a way that the wife holds he husband in honor and that the husband, in turn, gives his wife the honor that is her due. If this were observed, peace and love would reign. Otherwise, where this understanding is lacking, there is nothing but aversion in marriage. For this reason it happens that if a man and a woman take each other solely for the purpose of sensual pleasure, they find nothing but heartache. But if you have regard for God’s work and will, you can lead a Christian life in matrimony. Then you will not live as the heathen live. They do not know what God wants.”