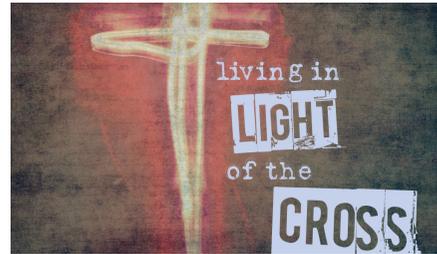


## Living in light of the Cross #5

In this short series at MR we'll be considering what the cross says about our discipleship. Each week we'll consider a passage and how it relates to a different aspect of following Jesus.



## Overview of 1 Peter 2v11-25...

This week we were thinking about how God uses *normal* Christians in their *normal* lives to change the world, especially as he calls us submit to everyone. We saw that this submission was at the heart of our everyday witness and followed the example of Christ... We made 2 points from the passage:

### 1. (v11-20): Live a life that changes the world

in v11-12 we noted that everyday living changes people's eternal destiny - as you live good lives (both negative and positive implications for us) so God uses them. We noted that the argument seems to continue in chapter 3 (v15) where people ask why we live good lives and we give a reason for the hope that we have. Normal behavior for the Christian is to submit to everyone (v13) - even the Emperor (probably Nero who persecuted Christians) and his governors. The implication for us seems to be the delegated authority of the state to people like traffic wardens, HMRC and teachers. People are looking for opportunities to discount our message - we're not to give them that. We're to not only submit to the state, but also v18 - to bosses. The difficulty comes when our masters are unjust. Here Peter says we continue to submit - despite our culture of rights and the pride of our hearts. But are there exceptions? We tentatively suggested that where the 'Emperor' has given us protection from abuse, we ought to take it. It's not wrong to take legal action if we're being illegally wronged.

### 2. (v21-25): Live a life modeled on the cross

The natural question that arises is how do we do this!? How on earth do we live a life like this? The answer in these verses is to look to Christ (v21). His example and model is the one for us to follow and copy - including how he responded to unjust suffering (v22-23). This, in fact, is our calling (v21). Jesus lived like this such that we can have forgiveness, die to sins and follow him - to return to the God who made us and who oversees our souls.

Here are some possible thoughts and questions.  
Please be selective and adapt them for your group:

### Possible Questions

Why do we find it hard to persevere through unjust suffering?

#### V11-20

From v11-12 what kind of a life does Peter want us to live? What aspects does he include? What would that look like for you? What does he expect the outcome to be (see also 3v15)? Do you notice any key words from v13-20? How is the passage constructed? What areas of life does Peter focus on here?

What does it mean to submit to everyone?  
How is submission tied to our witness?  
Where do you find it hard to submit? Why?

Can you think of any biblical exceptions (note these are the exceptions rather than the rule)?

#### V21-25

Where are we tempted to look when life is hard? Why?  
Where does Peter long for us to look? Why?  
What does it mean that Jesus is our example? What aspects is Peter wanting us to consider?

Why (from the passage) did Jesus die on the cross? What language does Peter use and why do you think he does?

What 2 things can you take away from this study? Share them with the group and pray for each other.