

I Peter 2:18-25: "Christians & Unfair Authority"

May 3, 2020

Contextual Background Information

- When Jesus was born, slavery was a _____ norm. About _____ percent of the world's population were slaves during Jesus lifetime.
- In ancient Rome it is estimated that there were around _____ slaves.
- Slavery in the Roman Empire
 - ~ Was the central _____ force of the Roman economy.
 - ~ Included warfare & _____ slaves.
 - ~ Included hard labor & _____ service.
 - ~ Was a temporary condition that could lead to _____.
 - ~ Offered little or no _____ for injustice.
- The New Testament nowhere _____ slavery, it merely regulates an existing societal structure.

Vs. 18-20 (Christian Slave/Master Dynamic)

- Slaves: _____ Servants
- Christian slaves were to submit to _____ type of master (kind & harsh) out of _____ for what God expected of them as His followers.
- Christian Slaves pleased God when they _____ with unjustified mistreatment and they received no sympathy for being punished for wrongdoing.

Vs. 21-25 (Christ's Response to Injustice)

- Christ's Injustice Example
 - ❶ Although completely innocent, Christ did not respond with sinful _____ or _____.

- ❷ Christ _____ God's justice system.
- ❸ Christ's payment for your sins _____ you to respond differently to injustice.
- ❹ Christ has _____ you under His loving care that cannot be undone by injustice.

21st Century Application

- All Christians are considered _____ of Christ, and He expects us to represent him well before our _____ masters.
- We have the right to _____ out against abuse of power, however, we should still _____ the example of Christ when we find ourselves in situations of unjust authority.
- Plausible 2020 Christian Slave/Master Examples:

Discussion Questions

1. What are some other US modern-day examples of Christian Slave/Master settings?
2. What are some negative consequences that are experienced by not biblically submitting to unfair authority?
3. Why is submission to unfair authority so difficult?
4. What are the potential spiritual blessings and spiritual influence gained by submitting to unfair authority?
5. What are some practical ways to submit Biblically to unfair authority?
6. Discuss the importance of passing on a Biblical perspective about authority to our kids, grandkids, etc.