**FOCUS** in 2020

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**THRIVE –** *A Study of 1 Peter*

***Live Free – 1 Peter 2:13-25***



How do we live free?

How do we thrive in a world that is unjust?

**1. Submit for God’s sake.**

*Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,**or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.**For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.**Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.* 1 Peter 2:13-16

* Submission is a tribute to God’s authority. vs.15
* Submission silences the slander of unbelievers through good works. vs.15
* Submission maintains order in a world seething with evil. vs.14
* Submission brings freedom. vs.16
* Submission shows who you live for. vs.13

**What does submission look like?**

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. 1 Peter 2:17

* Fear God - Be more afraid of offending God than man.
* Honor everyone- Show respect to all.
* Love well- Those in Christ.

**2. Submit and serve in an unjust world.**

* Respect all in authority.

*Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.* 1 Peter 2:13

* Offer grace when treated unfairly.

*For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.*1 Peter 2:13

* Do good in the midst of suffering.

For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? 1 Peter 2:13

* Be an example.

*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. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.* 1 Peter 2:21-22

* Do no evil.

*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.* 1 Peter 2:23

**Why does it matter?**

*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. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.* 1 Peter 2:24-25

* + Because Jesus took our sin so that sin would not take us.
  + Our unwillingness to submit takes us down a path of sin and rebellion.
  + We hate to submit because we do not want to give up control.
  + Death to sin is death to selfishness and self-centeredness.

**3. Die to sin and live free.**

***“We are alive to sin, and believing in sin, and following sin, until the cross unleashes on us the conquering love of God and constrains us to see that we are straying; we are erring; we are self-destructing in the path of sin. And when the cross releases that power in us, we die to sin. And we awaken to the beauty of righteousness in the pasture of our all-satisfying Shepherd.” John Piper***