

**A Living Hope...A Sure Salvation**  
Lesson 3

## The Submission Of Believers

### 1 Pet. 2:11 – 3:12

#### Introduction

Those who have been **saved** must also learn what it means to **submit**. Yes...they have submitted to Jesus and know the importance of doing the Father's will (**Mt. 7:21**). Yet, they must also learn the value of submission to others in all human relationships...both physical and spiritual. That is the theme of the next section of Peter's first epistle.

The first section of **1st Peter** is *doctrinal*...it discusses God's salvation for man and how he comes to gain and keep it (**1:1 - 2:10**). Beginning here, the rest of the letter is *application*. We learn how to live as saved people in our relationships...with all others and even to the world. The **only** way to heaven is, as we sometimes sing, "*None Of Self, And All Of Thee.*"

#### Relationship To The World

1. To what description does Peter return in referring to his readers? (**2:11a; cp. 1:1**) What does he urge us to do and why? (**2:11b**) *Thought question*: how would such conduct reflect the salvation he has been discussing?
2. How else does he admonish in **2:12a**? What can believers count on unbelievers doing? (**cp. 4:4; Jn. 15:18; 17:14; 1 Jn 3:13**) If we set the right example before unbelievers, what will hopefully result? (**2:12b**) What do you think is the "day of visitation"?

#### Civil Relationships

3. What does Peter instruct? (**2:13-14**) Were early saints slandered? (**cp. Acts 17:7**) What do you think "...for the Lord's sake" means? (**cp. Mt. 22:21**) Is this "allegiance" unconditional? (**Acts 4:18-20; 5:29**)
4. When we obey God by submitting to civil rule, what is the desired result? (**2:15**) To what do you think this refers?

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5. How are we to act? **(2:16-17)** Though free, yet what are we still? Can our freedom be abused, misused? **(cp. Gal. 5:1,13)**

#### **Secular Relationships**

6. Who does Peter next address beginning in **2:18**, and how does he instruct them?  
*Thought questions:* although slavery is no longer a part of our culture, how might we still apply these verses? How might **Col. 3:22-24** help in coping with “unreasonable” employers or supervisors?
7. With what is God pleased in this area? **(2:19)** How does Peter logically point out why God would be pleased with our “secular submission?” **(2:20)**

#### **Relationship To Christ**

8. What bearing does **2:21-25** have on our need to submit secularly?
- a) What is meant by “...you have been called for this purpose?” **(v. 21; cp. Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Phil. 1:29)**
- b) What role of Christ is emphasized in **v. 21**?
- c) How is He described in **vv. 22-23a**?
- d) Why was He able to endure unjust suffering? **(v. 23b)**

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- e) For what purpose did Christ suffer unjustly? **(vv. 24-25)** What application(s) can we make with respect to the suffering we might endure unjustly?

### **Domestic Relationships**

9. Who does Peter next address beginning in **3:1**, and what are his instructions for them? How do we know this verse is thematically connected with the previous ones? What is the goal of these believing wives, and how will it be accomplished? **(3:1-2)**
10. How does Peter begin to describe their "chaste and respectful behavior" in **3:3-4**? What comparison is made, and upon what is the emphasis to be placed?
11. How does Peter further prove the importance of what he instructs wives to do? **(3:5)** Specifically, who does he use as an example, and what results when women follow her today? **(3:6; cp. Gal. 3:7)**
12. Who does Peter next address in **3:7**, and what are his instructions for them? Though the husband leads his family, in what way does he show submission? What consequences result when he fails these duties? *Thought question:* what do you think is meant by the phrase, "as with a weaker vessel,..." [NASV]?

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#### **Summary**

13. It appears that Peter is addressing brethren in general in **3:8-12**. What 5 duties need to be found among brethren in their relationship with each other?
14. What does Peter stress in **3:9a**? Rather than give in to sinful dispositions or actions, what is the Christian to do instead and why? What other N.T. passages teach this?
15. How does Peter further offer proof of our "calling"? (**3:10-12**) From where does he quote?