

March 24, 2024
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
1 Peter 2:18-20

“Stand Up & Stand Out”
“Submission: Part 2 – “In the Workplace – Part 1”

- I. Foundation: God’s Provision of Salvation (1:1-12)
- II. Exhortation: Our Response to So Great a Salvation (1:13-5:14)
 - A. Sanctification (1:13-2:12)
 - B. Submission (2:11-3:12)
 - 1. In Society (2:11-17)
 - 2. In the _____ (2:18-25)
 - a. The _____ (18-20)
 - 1) Who (18a-b)

¹⁸ Household slaves, put yourselves in constant subjection with every fear in implicit obedience to your absolute lords and masters; not only to those who are good at heart and sweetly reasonable, satisfied with less than their due, but also to those who are against you; for this subjection to those who are against you is something which is beyond the ordinary course of what might be expected and is therefore commendable, namely, when a person because of the conscious sense of his relation to God bears up under pain, suffering unjustly. For what sort of fame is it when you fall short of the mark and are pummeled with the fist, you endure this patiently? But when you are in the habit of doing good and then suffer constantly for it, and this you patiently endure, this is an unusual and not-to-be-expected action, and therefore commendable in the sight of God. [Wuest expanded translation]

2) What (18b)

3) How (18b-20)

4) Why (19-20)

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. Share with one another some **practical ways you submitted respectfully to authorities in your life** this past week? How did those authorities respond? How did you respond to their response?
2. A bumper sticker says, **“I owe, I owe, it’s off to work I go.”** Why do you go to work?
3. Peter uses terminology of **“masters”** and **“servants.”** What terms might we use to describe similar positions in America? How might it help us be more **submissive** in the workplace if we saw our “boss” as our “master”? If you have a negative reaction to seeing your boss as your master, why is that?
4. Peter says to be submissive with all (entire) **respect**. What does it look like when people are submissive but not respectful? What does it look like to be submissive and respectful? What specific things would you do and not do in the workplace to carry out Peter’s mandate?
5. Peter acknowledges that bosses should be **good and gentle**. What would that look like in the workplace? If you have management responsibilities at work, how specifically do you lead your workers in a good and gentle manner? Peter says that some bosses are **“unreasonable,”** and this could lead to us experiencing **sorrows** and **suffering unjustly**. What might that look like in the workplace? What avenues do we have available to us to address this kind of treatment in the workplace today? How might we do that while still being submissive and respectful?
6. What do these passages say about **how** we are supposed to be in the workplace (both employee and boss)? **Why** does the Apostle Paul say we should be that way?
 - Eph. 6:5-9
 - Col. 3:22 – 4:1
 - 1 Tim. 6:1-2
7. In all honesty, what is your flesh telling you to do when you are treated unreasonably, unjustly, and/or harshly? What **motivations** does Peter give us to overcome the flesh and respond submissively & respectfully as new creatures in Christ? (Note the word **“for”** in verses 19-20) What does he mean by the word **favor** (*gracious thing* ESV; *thankworthy* KJV; *commendable* NIV; *God is pleased* NLT; *God will bless you* GNB) that he uses at the beginning and end of those two verses? Why does it find favor with God when we submit respectfully to unreasonable, unjust bosses? What is God ultimately concerned about when we go to work?
8. On a **scale of 1 to 10**, how would you rate the consistency of your submission in the workplace? (Note: if you aren’t in the workplace, rate yourself at school or in the neighborhood) How would those in authority over you rate it? How would your fellow employees rate it? When they observe your attitudes, words, and actions, are they blown away by how different you are from others in the company who don’t know Jesus?
9. **3 Month / 90-Day Challenge!** Read the whole Bible in 90 days. Here is a daily guide that Pastor Paul is using: <https://www.thebrooknetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/BibleIn90Days.pdf>
10. **Memorize 1 Peter 2:18-20.** Ask the Lord to help you see your workplace as a mission field. **Pray for and invite family & friends to join us for Good Friday and/or Easter next weekend.**