



BIBLE-BASED
FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH
TAMPA BAY

MIDWK LOCKED-IN

Remaining Focused under Pressure
A Study of 1 and 2 Peter.

Week Four
Grace Under Pressure
1 Peter 2:13-25

PASTOR ANTHONY C. WHITE

Grace Under Pressure

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where doing what Christ requires was harder than simply doing what came naturally? Maybe you were expected to respect someone whose decisions you strongly disagreed with. Perhaps you were criticized because of your Christian convictions, treated unfairly even though you were doing the right thing, or tempted to respond to someone in the same way they treated you.

In light of these challenges, we must ask: *How can we remain faithful to our convictions while responding in a way that still reflects the character of Jesus?*

That question is important because pressure has a way of testing both our convictions and our character. We may know what we believe, but the greater challenge is living out those beliefs when we are opposed, misunderstood, or treated unfairly.

Peter was writing to Christians who understood that tension. They belonged to Christ, yet they still had to live under human authorities, interact with people who did not share their faith, and navigate situations that were sometimes unjust. Peter wanted them to understand that their response under pressure was part of their witness.

So, as we come to 1 Peter 2:13–25, Peter moves us from simply asking, “What am I supposed to do?” to asking, “How can my response under pressure reflect the character of Christ?”

Study Objectives

1. Understand how Christian freedom and submission work together.
2. Examine how believers should respond when they experience unfair treatment.
3. Recognize Jesus as both our example in suffering and our Savior who bore our sins.

1 Peter 2:13-25 ESV

Submission to Authority

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ 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. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

As Peter addresses believers living in a world that does not always honor their faith or treat them fairly, he shows them what grace looks like when life applies pressure. Rather than allowing difficult circumstances to determine their response, they are called to follow the example of Christ. In this passage, we can trace three steps that help us to exhibit grace when the pressure is on.

The Steps of Grace Under Pressure
SUBMIT → SERVE → SUFFER

Table Talk

“What Would You Do?”

A controversial national policy is adopted that many Christians believe is unjust and inconsistent with biblical values. Those who publicly oppose the policy are criticized in the media and on social media. Some are labeled intolerant, unloving, or out of touch simply because of their Christian convictions.

Within the Christian community, reactions are divided. Some believers argue, “We need to fight back just as aggressively as they attack us.” Their social media posts become insulting and demeaning toward government leaders and people who support the policy. Others say, “Christians should just stay quiet, submit to the government, and accept whatever happens.”

A third group asks a different question:

“How can we stand firmly for what we believe is right while still responding in a way that looks like Jesus?”

Reflecting on the scriptural passage, discuss this situation and offer response based on each of these steps:

Submit: What does it mean to respect governmental authority when we strongly disagree with its decisions? Does submission mean silence or agreement? Explain.

Serve: What good could Christians actively do that demonstrates their convictions rather than merely arguing about them?

Suffer: If Christians are criticized, misrepresented, or treated unfairly for doing what they believe is right, how should they respond without retaliation?

In Summary

Peter reminds us that following Christ is not demonstrated only when life is comfortable—it is often revealed most clearly when the pressure is on. When we are misunderstood, mistreated, challenged, or placed under difficult authority, our response becomes part of our witness.

The Three Steps of Grace Under Pressure give us a pathway for responding like Christ:

SUBMIT (vv.13-15) — _____ authority for the Lord's sake, remembering that our highest allegiance belongs to _____.

SERVE (vv.16-17) — Use our _____ to do what is right and honor God, even when others do not.

SUFFER (vv.18-23) — When treated unjustly, follow in the steps of _____, refusing retaliation while entrusting ourselves to the One who judges justly.

The question is not simply, "How will I get through the pressure?" but "Who will people see in me while I'm under pressure?"

Looking Ahead

As you move into the week ahead, don't wait until you are under pressure to decide how you will respond. Choose now that your response will be shaped by Christ rather than by the moment.

- When you face difficult authority, **SUBMIT** in a way that honors God.
- When doing right becomes inconvenient, **SERVE** faithfully.
- When you are misunderstood or treated unfairly, **SUFFER** without allowing bitterness or retaliation to control you.

Bible Memory Verse

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of the darkness into his marvelous light.

Notes:





DOWNLOAD
APP



GIVE



NEW HERE?



If tonight was your first MDWK with us, thank you for being here. We don't take lightly that you chose to spend your Wednesday with us. We pray you felt welcomed, encouraged, and strengthened. We'd love to see you again soon, you're always welcome at The Base!