

becoming



who

you are

## **The Subversive Power of Christian Suffering**

06.30.2024

1 Peter 2:21-25

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### **1 Peter 2:21-25**

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### **1 Peter 2:12**

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.

## **The Subversive Power of Christian Suffering**

The Principle, the Practice, the Power

The Principle = New Authority -> Assertive Submission -> Subversion

### **1 Peter 2:13-17**

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

“One, their allegiance to God in Christ does not exempt them from submitting to pagan authority. Two, they must maintain their identity as God's holy people...The apostle Peter informs Christians of their duties in a way that affirms part of the Greco-Roman social order while subtly rejecting those premises that are not compatible with the gospel.”

- Karen H. Jobes

### **1 Peter 2:18-20**

Slaves, in reverent fear of God, submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

“The call to follow the crucified Messiah was, in the long run, much more effective in changing the unjust political, economic, and familial structures than direct exhortations to revolutionize them would ever have been. For an allegiance to the

crucified Messiah—indeed, worship of a crucified God is an eminently political act that subverts a politics of dominion at its very core.”

- Miroslav Volf, *Soft Difference*

The Practice = The “Example” of Jesus

### **1 Peter 2:21**

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

### **1 Peter 2:6**

For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

### **1 Peter 2:22**

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

The Power = Influence -> Impact

### **1 Peter 2:24-25**

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.