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## I PETER 2:11-25

## THE GOOD LIFE

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**SUMMARY:** Everybody wants to live the good life, no one wants to waste the only chance they will get on this earth. The question is then what does the good life look like? Well for the Apostle Peter the good life could be summarized by one word: submission.

After reminding his audience once again that they are foreigners and exiles, Peter points to the heart of the Christian life, the struggle against sin and seeking the glory of God. This is the good life he is talking about.

He then gets very practical and shows that this life is not one of power and prestige, but rather service and struggle. It begins in general terms, calling for a churchwide submission to the people and structures of human society, recognizing their God given authority and responsibly.

He then focuses in on one of the most restricted groups in the ancient world, slaves. People who through their circumstances had found themselves in the servitude of another person. To these powerless individuals he says again, submit. Even if their master is unjust.

To ground this submission Peter points to the greatest example the world has ever seen, Jesus himself.

Not only did Jesus willingly step down from heaven, he embraced in his life the attitude of a servant. He lay down his life for us, bearing our sin and setting for us an example. This is the submission we are called to. This is the life we must lead.

1. What would you define as the good life?
  2. Why do you think Peter describes our battle with sin as a war? (v.11)
  3. When might the day God visits be? Why would these people glorify him then? (v.12)
  4. Why does our world today struggle with submission?
  5. What authorities do you find it hard to submit to? Why are they hard to submit to? (v.13-14)
  6. How is submission an act of freedom? How might we use our freedom as a cover for evil? (v.16)
  7. Why is verse 17 such a big thing for Peter to say? How did it become a reality in his own life?
  8. How could a slave submit? Are they not already bound to do what they are told? (v.18)
  9. What is the difference between suffering that is commendable and suffering that is not? (v.19-20)
  10. How is Jesus the ultimate example of submission? (v.21)
  11. How did Jesus respond to injustice done to him? In what way is that opposite to how we usually live? (v.23)
  12. How is verse 24 the ultimate comfort yet also the ultimate challenge to the life of a Christian?
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