

**“Instructions for Exiles Under Unjust Authority”**

**1 Peter 2:11–25**

**May 12, 2024**

**Live as Sojourners (2:11–12)**

“Elect exiles.” (1 Peter 1:1)

“Conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.” (1 Peter 1:17)

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

**Live as Subjects (2:13–17)**

“Nero falsely accused and executed with the most exquisite punishments those people called Christians. ...And perishing they were additionally made into sports: they were killed by dogs by having the hides of beasts attached to them, or they were nailed to crosses or set aflame, and, when the daylight passed away, they were used as nighttime lamps. Nero gave his own gardens for this spectacle and performed a Circus game, in the habit of a charioteer mixing with the plebs or driving about the race-course. ...People began to pity these sufferers, because they were consumed not for the public good but on account of the fierceness of one man.” (Tacitus)

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1)

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh.” (Galatians 5:13)

**Live as Sufferers (2:18–25)**

**Notes**

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## Discuss

- Are there “passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul” that you need prayer for resisting?
- What “human institutions” are present in your life, and what does submission to them look like for you?
- What criticisms of Christianity do you hear that you have an opportunity to prove wrong with your life?
- In what ways is the suffering of Jesus an example for us, and in what ways is it uniquely salvific?
- When a Christian is suffering, what are some of the biblically-based questions that they should ask themselves about the causes of their circumstances and how they should respond?

## Read

Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Romans 13:1–7

## Pray

- That the Holy Spirit will help you to submit to authority out of obedience to God.
- That the Holy Spirit will help you to follow the example of Jesus when you face unjust suffering.

## Bulletin

- Women’s Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:00am
- Youth Ministry Gatherings: First and Third Wednesdays at 6:30pm
- CHOICES Baby Bottle Campaign: May 12–June 16
- Men’s Breakfast: June 15 at 8:00am