

MARCH 5, 2023

LIVING STONES

HONOR EVERYONE: SERVANTS AND MASTERS 1 PETER 2:18-20

How we act is just as important as what we do.

1 Peter 2:16 ... *"Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God."*

How does God want His church to act towards unjust employers?

1) We respond to people based on what God does, not what they do.

Matthew 5:43–46 ... *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"*

2) We are willing to suffer for God's sake.

Romans 8:16–17 ... *"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."*

Questions to Consider

- 1) Do you pray for those who act in an unjust way toward you? If so, do you pray out of love or anger?
- 2) Do you work as if you are working for God or do you give less because of the injustice you experience?
- 3) Are you intentionally kind in response to the injustice you are shown? What is a time you did this well? What is a time you responded with retribution?

Memory Verse for March

"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them. "You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode."

Genesis 50:19-20

From the Resources

"The apostles and the early church leaders knew the dangers of pushing for social and political upheaval apart from a true conversion of the hearts and minds within society. It is true that where the gospel of Jesus Christ penetrates people's hearts on a wide scale, that culture is transformed and evils like poverty, slavery, and oppression are radically diminished. But these social changes are the result, not the goal."

- Charles Swindoll

*Living Insights Commentary
James - 1&2 Peter (197)*