

# METRO Women's Bible Study

## 1 Peter 2:11-17

### Lesson 6

As believers, the motive behind all that we do is the glory of God. In this lesson we will see our role in society. We are to be representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we are to *submit* ourselves *to every ordinance of man... whether to the king... or to governors*. At the time of the writing of this letter, there was not one Christian king. Many, like Nero, were men obsessed with the annihilation of Christians. Yet, the instruction to all believers was *submit*. As you study these verses, may you understand the correlation between your *submission* and *glorifying God*.

### **DAY ONE: Read 1 Peter 2:11-17**

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1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. 1 Peter 2:11-17 has been divided into two paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

### **Verses 11-12**

### **Verses 13-17**

2. How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

3. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Words** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

**Key Words from previous lessons:** *Jesus, Spirit, faith, believing, grace, and salvation, God, suffering, trials, love, elect, precious, hope, incorruptible, glory/glories, the phrase according to, and any phrase referring to Jesus' future revelation, rejoice/joy, holy, forever, stone(s)/cornerstone, and word/Scripture*. **Remember**, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them. *God* and *love*

**New to this lesson:** *good, submit, and honor*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Peter 2:11-17. Remember, as you mark the word *God*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Him.

4. Mark the “**Truths about God, Truths about Jesus, Truths about the Holy Spirit, Truths about the Believer and Instructions**” on your worksheets. We will go over them on Day 6.

5. Note the term of conclusion, *therefore*, in verse 13. What is the conclusion made and what is it based upon? Verse 11-12

6. Peter used the contrasting term *but* in verse 16. What is being contrasted?

### **DAY TWO & THREE: Read 1 Peter 2:11-14**

1. Notice the tender word Peter began his instructions concerning key issues of the Christian’s spiritual life. Write out the word from your Concordance and the English Definition.

2. It is interesting to note how Peter, this “**man’s man**”, the fisherman, loves the tender use of this word **beloved**, using it 7 times in both epistles 1 Peter, & 2 Peter. Peter uses **beloved** to remind his readers that God loves them, a truth which has a way of preparing his recipients for his **exhortation**. Underline the word Beloved, and highlight the emphasis of the message he is sending them.

**1 Peter 2:11** “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul”

**1 Peter 4:12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

**2 Peter 3:1-3** <sup>1</sup>Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), <sup>2</sup>that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, <sup>3</sup>knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days,

**2 Peter 3:8-9** <sup>8</sup>But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**2 Peter 3:14** <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.”

**2 Peter 3:15** <sup>15</sup>and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you.”

**2 Peter 3:17-18** <sup>17</sup>You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; <sup>18</sup>but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

3. Being the **beloved of God** should elicit an obedient response from your heart, motivated by love for God. Peter is saying **“I beg (urge) you,”** Look up the Greek word for beg (**urge**) in your concordance and write out the English Definition.

4. Peter **urges** believers to be dedicated to the relentless opposition of the power of **Sin** in their lives. He knows the pain that becoming a **slave to Sin** can bring, and so he exhorts believers to put to death the deeds of the flesh by the Power of the Spirit. From the verses below, describe the consequences of sin.

**Romans 8:13** <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

**Colossians 3:5** <sup>5</sup>Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.”

**Galatians 5:19-21** <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

5. Peter uses this same word **urge** (parakaleo) in much the same way as Paul does in Romans 12:1. Look up and summarize the truth Paul presents to the believers then and to us today.

**Romans 12:1**

In Verse 11 we find Peter a second time referring to these believers as *sojourners* and *pilgrims*. Let's review their meaning.

In short, **paroikos** refers to dwelling at a place only for a short time. The idea is that of a **sojourn** which describes one's stay in a foreign place as a temporary resident. Today we say something like believers are "short timers", dwelling temporarily and not being tethered to this earth on which we currently reside.

\*\*It is interesting that while believers are referred to as sojourners on earth, the very opposite description is applied to unbelievers especially in Revelation 13:14 who are categorized as **Earth Dwellers** (*katoikeo* = take up permanent above + *ge* = earth)!

6. Dear Sisters, would your choices this past week (month or year) give evidence that you are living more like a "**short timer**" or an "**earth dweller**"? Explain how?

7. Peter gives an **urgent** plea to people who are the **beloved of God** to reciprocate that love with **obedience** which begins with the believer making a volitional choice. Write out verse 11 phrase by phrase.

8. In verse 11 Peter urges the believers to **abstain**. According to this verse, what are we to **abstain** from?

9. Look up the word **abstain** in your concordance and write out the English definition.

**Webster's Dictionary** defines **abstain** as to: *refrain deliberately and often with an effort of self-denial from an action or practice.*

This is not a bad definition except that "**self-denial**" is the world's way of dealing with sin. As believers we possess something greater than human effort, we possess the indwelling Spirit of God who gives us the ability to bear holy fruit which includes the fruit of the Spirit, self-control! Even though we have the Holy Spirit Sisters, we still have the responsibility to make decisions and take actions (partnering with the Spirit) to cultivate and fertilize the growth of the wonderful fruit of self-control in our lives! Amen?!

10. Peter urges the believers to **abstain from fleshly lusts**. Look up these words, fleshly and lust in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

**FLESHLY-**

**LUST-**

11. I have been asked this question many times over the years. Is it a sin to **think** lustful thoughts? **Lusts** occur in our mind and are not physical actions per se although they may (and frequently do) lead to physical actions. Look at the following passages and summarize what you have learned.

**Matthew 5:27-28**

**Proverbs 23:7**

**James 1:14-15**

12. How do the following verses provide the solution for indulgences of the flesh? Either summarize or highlight what you learn from these passages.

**Galatians 5:16** <sup>16</sup>I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

**Galatians 5:22-25** <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those *who are Christ's* have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

**Romans 6:11-13** <sup>11</sup>Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. <sup>13</sup>And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

**Romans 8:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

13. Write out the second half of verse 11.

14. Think about the influence the believer has on those in the world as you read 1 Peter 2:12. Why is the Christian’s **conduct** so important?

15. According to 1 Peter 2:12, what is the outcome of our **good works**?

a. Since we are saved by grace, why is it so important to do *good works*? Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

16. 1 Peter 2:13 begins a thorough teaching on submission. To what are we to *submit*?

a. Verse 13 begins with the word **therefore**. What is the correlation between **submitting to every ordinance of man** and the example called for in verse 12?

17. According to 1 Peter 2:13, why are we to *submit ourselves to every ordinance of man*?

a. How does keeping in mind that you are doing this *for the Lord’s sake* help you to submit? Look up and write out Colossians 3:23.

18. What kind of circumstances might someone find the instruction of 1 Peter 2:13 difficult to follow?

19. According to 1 Peter 2:13-14 who are we to *submit to*?

a. God has a purpose for those in authority. What is it? 1 Peter 2:14b

b. Read Romans 13:3-5 below and summarize what you learn from the message. “For the authorities do not frighten people who are doing right, but they frighten those who do wrong. So do what they say, and you will get along well. <sup>4</sup>The authorities are sent by God to help you. But if you are doing something wrong, of course you should be afraid, for you will be punished. The authorities are established by God for that very purpose, to punish those who do wrong. <sup>5</sup>So you must obey the government for two reasons: to keep from being punished and to keep a clear conscience.”

#### **DAY FOUR: Read 1 Peter 2:15-16**

1. Verse 15 begins with, “*For this is the will of God.*” What is the will of God according to this passage?

2. Look up the word “**will**” in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

a. It is God's will is that we **do right**. Look up this word in your concordance and write out the English definition.

b. Considering this verse in the context of previous verses, what *good* is Peter referring to?

c. Using Ephesians 6:6-7 describe the attitude we are to have as we are *doing good*.

I love the word Silence in the Greek and the English definition: Silence **phimoo** from **phimós** = a muzzle for a beast's mouth means to close the mouth with a muzzle, to gag one's moth, or to restrain their speech!

2. *It is God's will that your good lives should silence those who make foolish accusations against you.* (1 Peter 2:15 NLT) What does Titus 2:7-8 and 3:1 say about this?

#### **Titus 2:7-8**

#### **Titus 3:1**

3. Notice that **submission** and **doing good** are two of God's preferred responses to *foolish accusations against you*. Knowing this, how will you personally apply this?

4. How is the believer described in 1 Peter 2:16?

a. How can enslavement to Christ be true freedom? Look up John 8:31-32 & 36 for your answer.

**John 8:31-32 & 36**

*The believer can be both free and a bondservant. Spurgeon wrote, "Christians are free because they are slaves of Christ Jesus, a loving Master. And so our Christian freedom does not mean we are free to do as we like, but that we now are free to do as we ought."*

5. 1 Peter 2:16 says that **we are not to use our freedom as a cloak for vice**. The New Living Translation says ...**But your freedom is not an excuse to do evil**. Look up the word **cloak** in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

Peter warns the believers not to use their freedom as a "pretext" for doing wrong, an excuse for wickedness or a reason to **justify** their wrong deeds. Instead, use your liberty in Jesus to show the kind of love and respect that Peter calls for.

6. According to Jude 1:4, **who** do we deny when we use our freedom to do evil?

a. In what ways does a believer **deny Jesus** when they sin?

b. What is the effect of **good works** according to 1 Peter 2:12? What does this say to you?

## **DAY FIVE: Read 1 Peter 2:17**

1. 1 Peter 2:17 records four succinct commands for believers. Print them below.

a.

b.

c.

d.

These four commands show us what submission looks like in practical terms. There is no escape clause attached to this verse. These commands show us that submission is **first** and **foremost** a matter of the *heart*.

2. What does **Honor** mean? Look it up in your Concordance.

When Peter wrote this letter it was estimated that there were as many as 60,000,000 slaves in the Roman Empire, every one of whom was considered by law to be, not a person, but a thing, with no rights whatsoever! In effect, Peter is saying, "Remember the rights of human personality and the dignity of every man." Believers are not to behave in this manner but to **esteem** others.

a. What does this following passage reveal about the attitude of the believer towards others?

### **Philippians 2:3-4**

3. Peter reminds the Believer in verse 17 to "**Love the Brotherhood.**" **Look up the word Love in your Concordance and write out the English definition.** (We looked up 2 definitions of love from Lesson 4)

This love is not sentimental or emotional (not based on impulse or feelings) but obedient as an act of one's will desiring another's highest good. Since it is unconditional, it is dispensed even if it's not received or returned! **Agapao** means to love, not based on one's affection but based on a decision of the will. It does not operate from the natural inclinations of the fallen sin nature, but is a love which loves the unlovely and unlovable.

a. Agape love is **IMPOSSIBLE** to give to others without first understanding that we are sinners in need of mercy, grace and forgiveness! Forgiveness is key to love. What do the following passages instruct in the area of love?

**Matthew 6:14-15** "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." \_

**Matthew 18:21-22** Matt 18:21-23 "Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

**1 Peter 4:8** "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

**Romans 12:9-10** <sup>9</sup>Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."

b. Looking at the following passage, why is the attribute of love so important and where does the source of love come from?

**1 John 4:7-8** "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

c. What is the effect of this brotherly love according to the following passage?

**John 13:35**

4. The word **Fear** means to revere and is in the **present imperative** indicating a command to make this the **habit of your life**. **Fear** does not mean terror to the believer but conveys a sense of *awe* and *reverence*. **Reverence** is the combination of admiration and fear, awe and dread, wonder and terror. How will the fear of the Lord give us the proper attitude of submission towards others, whether it is those in authority, brothers and sisters, or even foolish people?

The last command in verse 17 says to **Honor the King**. Of the four commands in this verse this is the most amazing! The **king** refers primarily to the Roman sovereign who at this time is none other than the incredibly evil Emperor **Nero**. Even a ruler like Nero is sent by God and must be respected! (See Daniel 2:21)

5. If you believe that God is in control of your life down to the tiniest details, and He has you where He wants you to be right now, how would you honor someone (including your husband or boss) in authority who is unreasonable?

a. What command and promise is there for us concerning those in authority from 1 Timothy 2:1-2?

**Warren Wiersbe** writes, “Peter was careful to point out that Christians in society are representatives of Jesus Christ. It is our responsibility to “advertise God’s virtues” (1 Peter 2:9) This is especially true when it comes to our relationship to government and people in authority.

It is important that we respect the office of Governments or Authorities even though we cannot respect the man or woman that is represented in these. As much as possible, we should seek to cooperate with the government and obey the law; **but** we must never allow the law to make us violate our conscience or disobey God’s Word. Look at Daniel 1 and note the way in which Daniel lived this out. For example, when Daniel and his three friends refused to obey the king’s dietary regulations, they disobeyed the law; but the way that they did it proved that they honored the king and respected the authorities (Dan. 1). They were not rebels; they were careful not to embarrass the official in charge or get him into trouble; and yet they stood their ground. They glorified God and, at the same time, honored the authority of the king!

### **DAY SIX: Review 1 Peter 2:11-17**

1. How has knowing that you are **Beloved of God**, elicited a response of obedience towards God and love of the brethren?
2. What does it mean to live a **good** life?
3. What **good works** in your life do non-Christians see?
4. What have you learned from this lesson about **honoring authority**?
5. Why is it so difficult to **honor** those who have authority over us?
6. Share one thing from this lesson that has challenged or encouraged you?
7. What did you learn this week about the “**Truths about God, Truths about Jesus, Truths about the Holy Spirit, Truths about the Believer and Instructions**” from your worksheets?