

OUR CHRISTIAN DUTY
1 PETER 2:18-25 / 9-11-19 / WED

I. SLAVERY IN THE FIRST CENTURY

- A. Slavery was a fact of life in the New Testament.
 - 1. It's estimated there were 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire.
 - 2. Although the Bible doesn't commend slavery, neither does it insist on its abolition.
 - 3. Why?
 - a. There had been slave revolts before but they all ended in the bloodshed of slaves.
 - b. The Bible, therefore, addresses the world as it was rather than as it wished it were.
 - c. There were slaves in every occupation—doctors, teachers, actors, musicians, etc.
 - d. Slaves were property not people.
 - e. Slaves were not permitted to marry but there was cohabitation.
 - f. Not all slaves were treated harshly.
- B. Although Christianity didn't abolish slavery it created new relationships between slaves and their owners.
 - 1. One example is the N.T. book of Philemon. Paul did not insist this Christian slave owner free his runaway slave Onesimus.
 - 2. Instead, Paul called on Philemon to treat him as a Christian brother-1:15-16.
 - 3. Paul instructed Onesimus that it was his Christian duty to return to his master.
- C. The motive for this new relationship is our devotion to Christ—Colossians 3:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:31.

II. HOW CAN WE SUBMIT TO PEOPLE WE DON'T WANT TO SUBMIT TO?

- A. Rejoice like a Christian—4:12-13.
- B. Respond like a Christian--3:9.
- C. Rely like a Christian—4:19.

