

**The Sojourner’s Life – “Be Subject for the Lord’s Sake”**

**1 Peter 2:11-25**

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General Structure of the Letter moves from “What God has done for you in Christ” (Indicative) to ”How you must live for God in Christ” (Imperative).

1 Peter 2:11-12 marks a transition point in the letter.

Dual Citizenship.

We are sojourners and pilgrims in a foreign land. At once, we belong to God’s kingdom and an earthly one.

Andrew Walls – The “Pilgrim” and “Indigenizing” Principles

1) **Indigenous principle:** WE ALL BELONG SOMEWHERE ON EARTH.

Jesus Christ became incarnate in history to reach you where you are. We are to identify with others in mission and be subject to earthly authorities. (1 Cor 9:22, Romans 13:1-7, Acts 17:26-27, 30).

2) **Pilgrim principle:** WE ALL BELONG NOWHERE ON EARTH

We are God’s people in His kingdom, reflecting His will, purposes and glory. (1 Pet 2:9-11; Phil 3:20; Rom 12:1-2)

2 Ultimate things we must do (vs 11-12)

* protect your soul (vs 11)
* live in such a way in the world as to glorify God (vs 12)

Be Subject for the Lord’s Sake (vs 13-17)

* We are to submit to human institutions as God’s people (vs 13-14). The key is “for the Lord’s sake.”
* Silence accusations by your actions. (vs 15)
* Live as ‘free’ servants of God (vs 16)
* Honour all Love Christians Fear God Honour Ruler (vs 17)

Endure unjust suffering like Christ (18-25)

* Household code of 1 Pet 2:18-3:7 – see also Ephesians 5:21-6:9; Colossians 3:18-4:1.

“The NT versions of the household codes reflect attempts to use a common rhetorical form to address Christian behavior within a non-Christian society. The goal is for the believers to have the most effective witness among their neighbors without conforming to secular values and expectations.”

*(Dennis R. Edwards, 1 Peter. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Academic, 2017, pg 114.)*

* “Suffering for doing good” is a main theme in the letter (see also 1 Peter 3:17; 4:15 and 5:10).
* Peter addresses ‘household slaves’ (oiketēs) – vs 18.
* It is a gracious thing in God’s eyes to endure unjust suffering (vs 19 and 20).
* Jesus is our PRIME example (vs 21-23).
* Jesus is our PERFECT substitute and shepherd (vs 24-25)