

# UNJUST TREATMENT, THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GRACE

## 1 Peter 2:18-21

### 1. THE COMMAND, verse 18a

“Household slaves”—the Greek term could refer to domestic slaves and free domestic workers. The focus is on workers serving within households.

*Submit*—willing cooperation

*with all fear*—here, the idea is reverential respect.

Christians are to be cooperative and energetic contributors to the enterprises that provide them with a livelihood.

### 2. THE PROBLEM, verses 18b, 20b

There are “twisted” masters—masters who are abusive and dishonest. This twistedness of such masters could include physical mistreatment as well as dishonesty regarding pay, working conditions, expectations, property, and liberties.

Twisted masters may abuse and cheat household slaves and free workers even if those servants are honest and hardworking.

### 3. THE SUPERNATURAL BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO OBEY THE COMMAND, verse 19a.

“Favor” is the same as the word for *grace*.

Two ways grace will appear through obedience:

#### A. As a heart empowered with supernatural joy.

God’s special favor/grace/empowerment comes as a result of God’s special notice of unjust suffering in His children’s lives. His favor supplies the power to persevere.

This perseverance is seen in the display of your spiritual character: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control.

#### B. As a life exhibiting true freedom.

This freedom is manifest as genuine humility.

It shows up in an honorable and energetic work ethic.

It radiates as freedom from a prideful and defensive ego, greed, and envy.

#### 4. THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE GRACE THIS COMMAND PROMISES, 19; 20b

- A. Qualifier #1: Being *mindful* of God's will—literally, *conscious of God*, 19a.

Tuned in to God's will. Concerned for God's glory. Focused on God's perspective.

Regularly cultivating familiarity with and understanding of God's word.

Engaging in prayer—talking to God about your life and asking for insight and wisdom about your sin struggles, your responsibilities, and your relationships.

Regular reflection on Jesus' suffering and the mission He undertook for God to save you.

- B. Qualifier #2: Enduring grief from suffering unjustly, 19b.

*Enduring grief*; 2 Tim 3:11, 1 Cor 10:13

Verse 20—no credit for enduring punishment resulting from sin.

*Suffering for doing good, but enduring the suffering*  
Romans 12:12; 2 Thess 1:4

#### 5. OUR CALLING – TO MISSION WITH CHRIST UNDER THE COMMAND, verse 21.

We are called to display divine grace through our lives in some contexts of unjust suffering. Why? Because we are called to mission with Christ—the mission to co-labor with Him in the redemption of His people.

Our calling is to manifest the greater freedom and joy that God offers anyone willing to join His family.

He offers purpose, release from the dominion of sin, and a future of glory.

By principle, the passage speaks of situations where you find yourself under an authority who is abusing that authority and treating you unjustly.

If you can't change your situation, how do you deal with it?

You respond precisely as Peter commands:

- voluntarily submit, accepting the abuse as an opportunity to demonstrate the power of grace.
- Appeal to God for justice without complaining, sulking, or vindictiveness.