

Our _____ to Follow

I PETER 2:21-25

Intro. The last week we looked 1 Peter 1:18-20 and saw that as believers we are to be submissive to those who are our master (employer), whether they be good and kind, or cruel and unreasonable. Why? Because we _____ that we are in the career field that God wants us to be in, and we believe that God is in _____ of the events we are going through, and we will want to be obedient to His commands. Most important we desire to bring _____ to God through our behavior toward those in authority over us (Cf. 1 Cor 10:31). Peter continues the explanation of submission to those in authority in difficult times by pointing the readers to God's example.

I. God's _____ for the believer to imitator Vs 21

A. Someone has gone before us—_____

1. We were called to be obedient in the hard times that God _____ in our life

2. **For even hereunto were ye called Vs 21a**

a. **For even hereunto**-to this _____

b. **Called**-_____ by God

c. Scripture:

(1) Mark 8:34-35 *And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.*

(2) Acts 14:21-22 *And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, 22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*

(3) 2Timothy 3:12 *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

B. **Christ suffered for us Vs 21b**

1. **Christ**-God, the Son

2. **Suffered**-to be afflicted and _____ by others

C. Christ left us an example to _____ Vs 21c

1. **Leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps**

2. **Leaving**-_____

3. **Example**-a _____ to follow

4. **Follow His Steps**- to tread in one's footsteps i.e., to _____ his example

II. The example Christ has left for us to _____ Vs 22-24

A. Christ was _____ and perfect Vs 22

1. **Who did no sin**

a. **Did no**-never ever

b. **Sin**-Hamartia-to miss the mark at which one _____

c. Christ never _____ to be perfect while here on earth

2. **Neither was guile found in his mouth**-who never spoke _____ or incorrectly

a. He never was a _____

b. He never spoke _____ of turn

c. He never made a statement that was not _____

- d. He never made a _____ He did not keep
 e. He was _____ deceitful, hypocritical, or insincere in what He said or did
- B. Christ was _____ Vs 23-24
1. He was reviled Vs 23a revile- to reproach, rail at, revile, heap _____ upon
 2. He suffered Vs 23a suffer- afflicted not only with verbal but _____ injuries, beating, spit upon, crowned with thorns, crucified.
 3. He was _____ to a cross Vs 24a
 4. He was _____ before his crucifixion Vs 24b *by whose stripes ye were*

healed

- C. Christ was _____ to His Father Vs 23-24
1. When reviled, he did not _____ Vs 23a
 2. When caused to suffer, He did not _____ the persecutors Vs 23a
 3. He committed himself to His Father in these _____ times Vs 23b
 4. He _____ bore our sin on the cross Vs 24a
 - a. So that the believer might have victory over sin's _____ Vs 24b
 - b. So that the believer might have victory over sin's _____ Vs 25

Concl: Jesus taught in *Matthew 5:43-47* "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?" Jesus set the example for us to _____. It is impossible to follow in His steps in our _____ strength. We must _____ every area of our life to His control so that when we have opportunity to _____ for the Lord under difficult circumstances and with difficult people, He might be the One enabling us to do what is Scripturally correct, thus bringing _____ to Himself.