

Following Jesus and the Cross Centered Life 1 Peter 2:11-25

In our text today, he gives us more **practical applications** on how to **live the Christian life**, calling us once again to **holiness of life**, as well as **submission to authority** even to the point of **suffering**. In this way he says we will **glorify God**, and that sometimes we will **suffer according to the will of God**. All of this we do, **following Jesus**, who left us the ultimate example of **suffering according to God's will** at the **cross**. In calling us to follow **Christ's example**, we learn that the Christian life is a **Cross Centered Life**. This Cross Centered Life is both the **purpose** of our **calling**, and the **way we glorify God** while we **do live**. Here we have a very rich text calling us to **follow Jesus**, just like our wise **Pastor Peter** learned himself in his days following Jesus.

Now in **Today's text 1 Peter 2:11-21**, we will see

- **V-2:11-12 – Spiritual War that glorifies God**
- **V-2:13-20 – Submission and Suffering for the Lord's Sake**
- **V-2:21 – Following Jesus and the Cross Centered Life**

Galatians 5:16-24 - 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another**, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. **19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife,**

Matthew 5:14-16 - 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.** NASB

Acts 5:27-29 - 27 And when they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, **"We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."** 29 But Peter and the apostles answered and said, **"We must obey God rather than men.**

Romans 13:1-7 - 1 Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. **But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.** 5 Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, **not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.** 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. 7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; **fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.**

jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires. NASB

Romans 7:14-25 - 14 For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For that which I am doing, I do not understand; **for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.** 16 But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. **19 For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.** 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, **23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.** 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. NASB

Galatians 5:13-14 - 13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, " You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

"If, in the conscientious discharge of his duty, or if, in the endurance of this wrong, he regards himself as serving God. That is, if he feels that God, by his providence, has placed him in the circumstances in which he is, and that it is a duty which he owes to him to bear every trial incident to that condition with a submissive spirit. If he does this, he will evince the true nature of religion, and will be graciously accepted of God.... It is acceptable to God, if we bear wrong with a proper spirit, from whatever quarter it may come. Our proper business in life is, to do the will of God; to evince the right spirit, however others may treat us; and to show, even under excessive wrong, the sustaining power and the excellence of true religion. Each one who is oppressed and wronged, therefore, has an eminent opportunity to show a spirit which will honor the gospel; and the slave and the martyr may do more to honor the gospel than if they were both permitted to enjoy liberty and life undisturbed."
End quote.

Romans 12:1-2 - 12 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. NASB