

**Free to serve with** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Free to serve with** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Free to suffer with** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Free to suffer with** \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you have any key takeaways from this week's sermon?

**Read 1 Peter 2:9-25**

Verses 11-12 lay important groundwork for the remainder of the book of 1 Peter. Why does Peter want the church to pursue good conduct? Who benefits from it? How is God glorified?

In the first half of this passage, Peter discusses submission to rulers (in today's terms: officials, government agencies, judges, etc.). As Christians, we are both citizens of a country and subjects of God's kingdom. Give a few examples of how we are "subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution" (v 13).

In verse 15, what is God's will with respect to our civic behavior? Why does God want us to honor our authorities (recall vv 11-12)? How is God glorified by our submission? How is his cause harmed by our misconduct?

Peter makes clear (v 17) who we are to honor, love and fear (see also Romans 13:1-7). In what ways are you challenged by Peter's words? How easy is it to balance submission to authority versus fearing God? If difficult, how so?

Peter changes the subject in verses 18-25 to first century servants. In the context of submission to authority, his teaching can be extended to cover modern day employees. Describe a time when you worked for a difficult boss (vv 18-19). How did Jesus minister to you as you endured sorrow and suffering?

Jesus was righteous, yet suffered unjustly (vv 20-25). Followers of Jesus understand that the pursuit of righteousness does not shelter us from suffering. How well do you cope at work with unfair, unjust demands? What can you learn from Jesus' example of suffering? How do the principles of verses 11-12 apply in this situation?