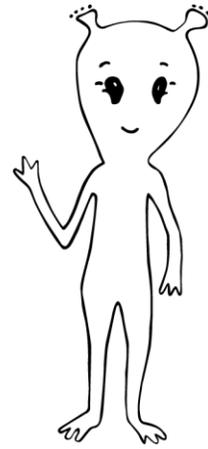


**How to Live Like an Alien**  
The First Letter of Peter  
**No. 13 – Keeping Our Conduct Honorable as God’s People, pt. 3**

**1 Peter 2:18-20**  
Danny Capon, *Pastor*



**HOW TO LIVE LIKE AN ALIEN**

THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

**Review**

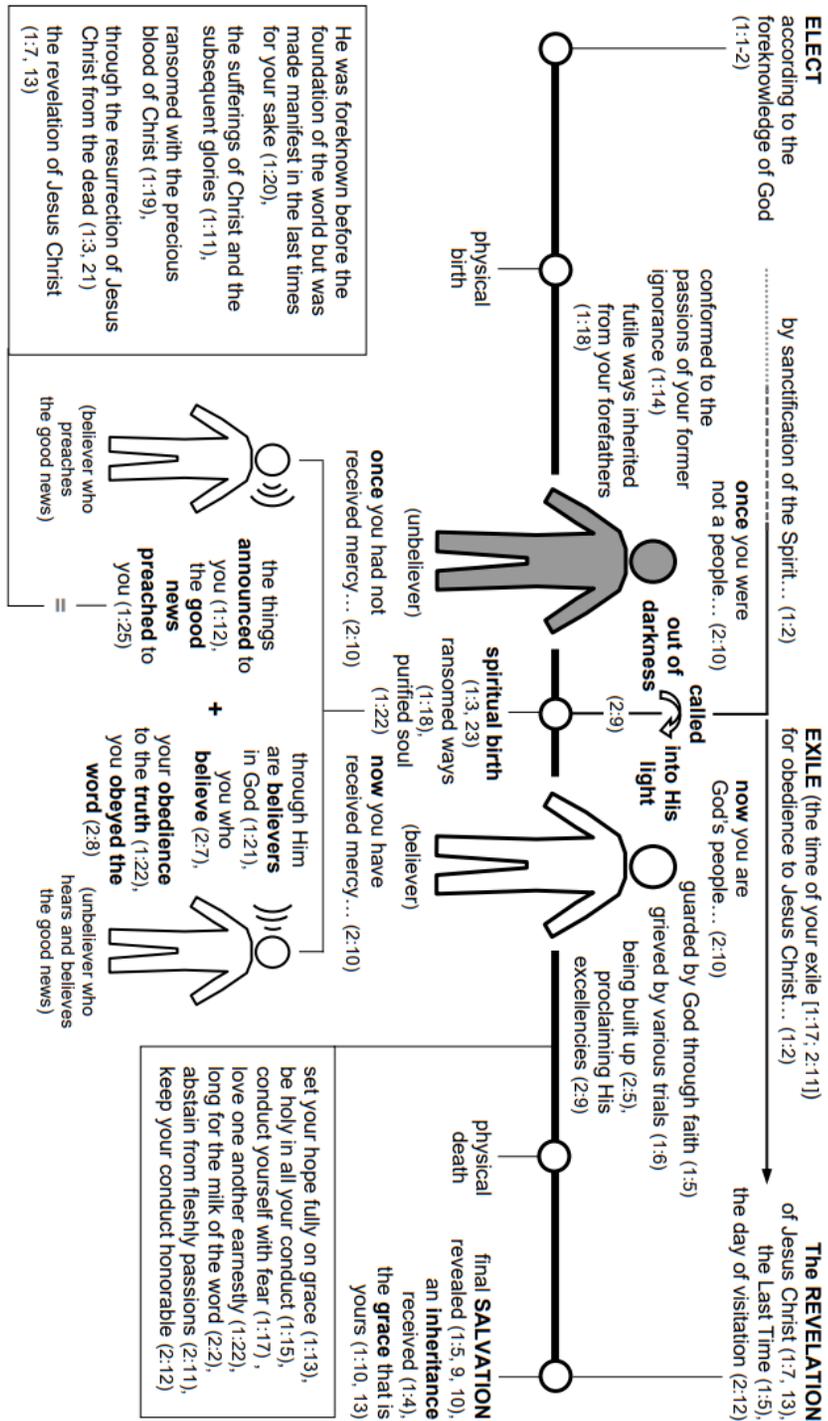
The apostle Peter, writing to Christians who are both *elect* and *exiles*, encourages them to live faithfully...

- Praising God for Our Salvation (1:3-12)
- Setting Our Hope on God (1:13-21)
- Growing in God’s Word (1:22-2:3)
- Being Built Up as a Spiritual House (2:4-8, 9-10)
- Keeping Our Conduct Honorable as God’s People (2:9-10, 11-12)
  - Being Subject as Citizens to Human Authorities (2:13-17)
  - Being Subject as Servants to Our Masters (2:18-25)

**No. 13 – Keeping Our Conduct Honorable, pt. 3**

**1 Peter 2:18-25**

ESV **1 Peter 2:** <sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution... <sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. <sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.



## How to Live Like an Alien (“sojourners” and “exiles,” 2:11)...

- > ...means knowing who we are (“God’s people,” 2:9-10) and living our lives among unbelievers accordingly (“abstaining” from fleshly passions and “keeping” honorable conduct, 2:11-12)...
- > ...which includes being subject to human authorities...
  - > ...like government (“kings” and “governors,” 2:13-17)...
  - > ...and **masters** (household despots, 2:18-25)...

## Keeping our conduct honorable as God’s people...

### Servants must be subject to their masters (vv. 18-25)

because this is a gracious thing (vv. 19-20)  
because this is one’s calling (vv. 21-25)

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### ‘Servants, be subject to your masters...’ (v. 18)

Who is Peter talking about?

- household servants
- who have been called out of darkness into God’s light
- who have a responsibility to conduct themselves honorably

How should we approach his instruction in this passage?

- them and then vs us and now
- slavery in the Roman empire, first century
- two extremes
- personal application

<sup>ESV</sup> **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

#### General

- All Scripture is profitable (The Principles of Relevance)
- Scripture is authoritative and sufficient for every situation (The Principles of...Principle!)
- Every believer is responsible to handle Scripture for his/her own good *and* for the good of others (The Principles of Discipleship)

#### Specific

- **Position-specific instruction** often carries obvious implications for those outside of the specific position (e.g. Ephesians 6:8 ...knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free)

- **The various Household Code passages** (e.g. Ephesians 5:21-6:9; Colossians 3:18-4:1), which provide position-specific instruction, often share similar implications indicating that they are to be applied to one’s specific position in life regardless of what it might be
- **Peter’s instruction to servants** intentionally includes a reference to the example of Christ (e.g. 1 Peter 2:21-25), who suffered but not as a *household servant* per se, indicating that some implications can be applied to anyone in a similar predicament in life

What does Paul mean? (v. 18)

‘servants...’

‘be subject to your masters...’

with all respect (“fear,” cf. 2:17; 1:17)

not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust

**Why?** (vv. 19-20)

**because this is a gracious thing**

What is a gracious thing?

#### **The Condition**

- when one endures sorrows...
- while suffering unjustly...
- being mindful of God...

#### **The Clarification**

- for what credit is it if when you sin...
- but if when you do good..

How is this a gracious thing?

- mindful of God (v. 19)
- what credit is it (v. 20)
- in the sight of God (v. 20)

#### **Enduring Sorrows**

- **We** continue to keep ourselves rightly ordered in action and attitude
- **We** embrace suffering unjustly without retaliation
- **We** provide no legitimate reason for our unjust treatment
- **We** do what we can to keep doing good as much as possible
- **We** endure sorrows in this way, ultimately, out of respect for God