

## WHAT IF IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT?

### 1 Peter 2:18-25

(Verse by verse approach)

**Introduction:** You don't see it very often, but Christians are to live in such a way as to not give anyone any reason to criticize them. They are to be submissive to all powers so long as they don't conflict with God's Word. In Peter's day, there were some 60 million slaves and believe it or not, they formed the backbone of Rome. They performed everything from doctoring to common laborers. The early Church did not promote freeing slaves for Rome would have quickly stepped in and destroyed the Church.

Today, we are not able to identify with slave situations, but the guidelines and precepts Peter advocated apply to any person to person relationship of any generation.

1. **V 18:** "Froward" means crooked, wicked and always unreasonable.
  - It is easy to work for gentle and good people.
  - It is very trying to work for unreasonable people.
  - The Christian is to remain even tempered regardless of the severity of disagreement.
2. **V 19:** The believer is to act and react to unreasonable people in such a way that the unreasonable people will not expect the undeserved reaction they will receive from the believer.
  - It is a grace (unmerited favor) - ful act which will not go unnoticed by God.
3. **V 20:** As God sees things, which is best:
  - To suffer because it is your own fault?
  - Or to suffer even though it is not your own fault?
  - Whenever the believer is unjustly treated and refuses to retaliate, God "credits" the believer's account.
4. **V 21: (Key verse)**
  - The reason for this behavior in believers is not because of salvation, nor for gaining favor or credit in God's eyes.
  - The reason is that the believer has been called to lead the same kind of life that Jesus Christ led.
  - Jesus Christ died and provided Salvation, but Jesus Christ's life provided the example, the footprint God expects ALL believers to follow.
5. **V 22-23:** Jesus trusted God to bring judgment, punishment, retaliation and vengeance as HE would.
  - No one is able to explain why people act as they do - only God can be fair.
  - God says "*...vengeance is mine, I will repay!...*"
  - The believer, in following Jesus Christ's example, is also to leave acts of revenge, etc., to God.
6. **V 24-25:** Peter reviews Jesus Christ's accomplishments for mankind:
  - Jesus Christ carried to the altar (the cross) Himself as the sacrifice for mankind.
  - By Jesus' sacrifice (death), the believer becomes righteous.
  - By Jesus' beatings, the believer's sickness of being lost is healed.

- Before Jesus' death, God viewed mankind as continually wandering around and away from Him.
- Since Jesus' death, mankind has been returned to God and now Jesus is overseer of the believer.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Jesus Christ is the only way to God, the Father and any person who believes in Jesus shall be accepted by the Father and given eternal life.
2. Jesus Christ is the pattern, the example the believer is to live his/her life after and be as much like as he/she possibly can.
3. Christians are going to find themselves in situations where they will be mistreated, misunderstood and even disliked and hated but are to react as Jesus would and that is to be even tempered and to not retaliate in any form or manner.
4. God takes notice every time a believer (Christian) is unjustly treated and refuses to retaliate, given "credit" to that believer.
5. Christian, you will be unjustly treated as long as you live on this earth but take Peter's advice and follow Jesus' example, do not retaliate, let God handle things. It will be hard to do, but when you stand before God, you will be rewarded.