

Silencing the Critics - Godly Servants

1 Peter 2:18-21a

Introduction:

Godly Living – is a life in action that honors God in all things regardless of the situation, audience, or location. It is the active outward testimony of the inward change of a life in Christ Jesus.

“The only way we can silence the critics, the only way we can stand against the enemy is by the power of a Holy life.”

Peter moves from politics to the work place...

I. The Mandate for Submission v.18

- a. Our conduct in the work place is important if we are going to silence the critics and lead people to Christ.
- b. The workforce in the Roman world consisted mostly of slaves 1 Cor 1:26-29
- c. Servants – means household servants
- d. The Mandate – Be submissive to your masters
 - i. With all respect
 - ii. With all fear – fear in reference to awe of God
- e. Salvation doesn't change your earthly social status 1 Cor 7:21-22
- f. It doesn't matter if our masters are good or bad we are to be obedient Eph 6:5-6

Please Turn Over

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II. The Motive for Submission v.19

- a. For this finds favor
 - i. It pleases God
- b. For consciousness of God
 - i. Because you are aware of God's presence
- c. It pleases God when we bear up under the sorrows that come when you suffer unjustly

III. Punishment for Wrong vs. Doing Right v.20

- a. There is no praise from God if you suffer because you did wrong
- b. God is pleased when you suffer unjustly and you endure it patiently Matt 5:11

IV. Called for this Purpose v.21a

- a. We are saved for this purpose
 - i. To patiently endure suffering you do not deserve
- b. As we live out our Christian life we will be unjustly and unfairly attacked
- c. We should be better than anybody else in attitude and performance toward work
- d. For we are saved to lead people to Christ