

June 2 – 8

Chosen and Exiled | Free to Serve and Suffer

Icebreaker: What is your natural response to suffering?

Read 1 Peter 2:13–25

SOAP Discussion (Details on the SOAP Method at www.cfdowningtown.com/soap)

Further Discussion

2:13–17

- How do we live in relation to human institutions?
- What is the role of human government?
- What is the result of us doing good in society? With those around us?
- What does it mean to live as free people who are under the authority of human institutions? How can freedom be used as a cover-up for evil?

2:18–20

We don't have servants or enslaved people like in the Roman Empire. Employer/employee relationships are related, but no lawful coercion is involved, such as among servants or slaves.

- Understanding the differences in our situation, how ought we treat those who have authority over us?
- How ought we react when being treated unjustly? What is God's response to our unjust treatment?

2:21–25

- What does it mean that we have been called to suffer?
- How is Jesus an example for us?
- What allowed Jesus to endure suffering?
- What did his suffering accomplish for us?

Application

The ultimate authority in our country is the Constitution, not a person. Under that Constitutional system in our representative democracy, we have rights as citizens and, under the rule of law, as employees.

- What is the limit to our obedience to human institutions, governmental authorities, and our employers? (See Acts 4:18–20)
- How do we balance our rights as citizens and employees with how we are called to relate to those who have authority over us?
- What do we learn about God in this passage that can help reset our understanding and acceptance of suffering?

For Next Week: Use SOAP with one verse in 1 Peter 3:1–7.