

Living to Display God's Grace BY SUBMITTING IN THE WORKPLACE

1 Peter 2:18-20



1 Peter: Holy Living in a Hostile Land

- I. The Command to Submit as Christ's Servant (1 Peter 2:18-20)**
- II. The Call to Suffer as Christ's Servant (1 Peter 2:21-25)**

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Servants are **slaves**. The word used here isn't *doulos*, the general word for slave, but *oikētēs* = domestic or household slave. The terms are very close, but *oikētēs* emphasizes the **domestic** aspect of the slave's situation.

I. The Command to Submit as Christ's Servant (1 Peter 2:18-20)

Who are these **masters**? The word is *despōtēs*. The clearest meaning is master or lord. We get the word **despot** from this. In **English**, despot means a king or ruler with absolute power, and it can be used in a negative way to identify a tyrant or oppressor.

I. The Command to Submit as Christ's Servant (1 Peter 2:18-20)

“New Testament writers were not social revolutionaries.... They did not believe that overhauling social structures would transform culture. Their concern was the relationship of individuals to God, and they focused on the sin and rebellion of individuals against their Creator. New Testament writers therefore concentrated instead on the godly response of believers to mistreatment. Peter fits this paradigm nicely, for he admonished his readers to respond in a godly way to persecution and oppression.”

Dr. Thomas Schreiner

I. The Command to Submit as Christ's Servant (1 Peter 2:18-20)

We can glean **four guiding principles** from Peter's command and counsel to help us know God's will for us as employees and workers.

1. Align Your Heart (1 Peter 2:18)

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- Respect is *phobos*; Peter used this in **verb** form in verse 17 for **fearing God**.
- Whenever Peter uses this word in his letter, it always refers to **God** (cf. 1:17; 3:2, 6, 14, 16). in 1 Peter 3:6 and 14, Peter tells us **not to fear man**.

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2. Adjust Your Perspective (1 Peter 2:18)

- The Greek word is *skolios*, where we get our word **scoliosis**. It means crooked, curved, bent, twisted.
- *“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, so you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked (skolios) and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.”*
(Philippians 2:14-15)

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2. Adjust Your Perspective
- 3. Arm Your Conscience... (1 Peter 2:19)**

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- ... with a God-pleasing resolve. This is more a conscious awareness of God as the One you desire to obey and to please in all respects.

ESV = mindful of God.

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- Peter helps us **avoid two schemes** of the devil here:
 - First, avoiding the **fear of man** or trying to win the **approval of man** as our priority, or even at the **expense** of pleasing God.

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- Peter helps us **avoid two schemes** of the devil here:
 - First, avoiding the **fear of man** or trying to win the **approval of man** as our priority, or even at the **expense** of pleasing God.
 - Second, **measuring our responses** based on our bosses. Our superiors are not the measure of how we respond to them or to the situations in which we find ourselves with them.

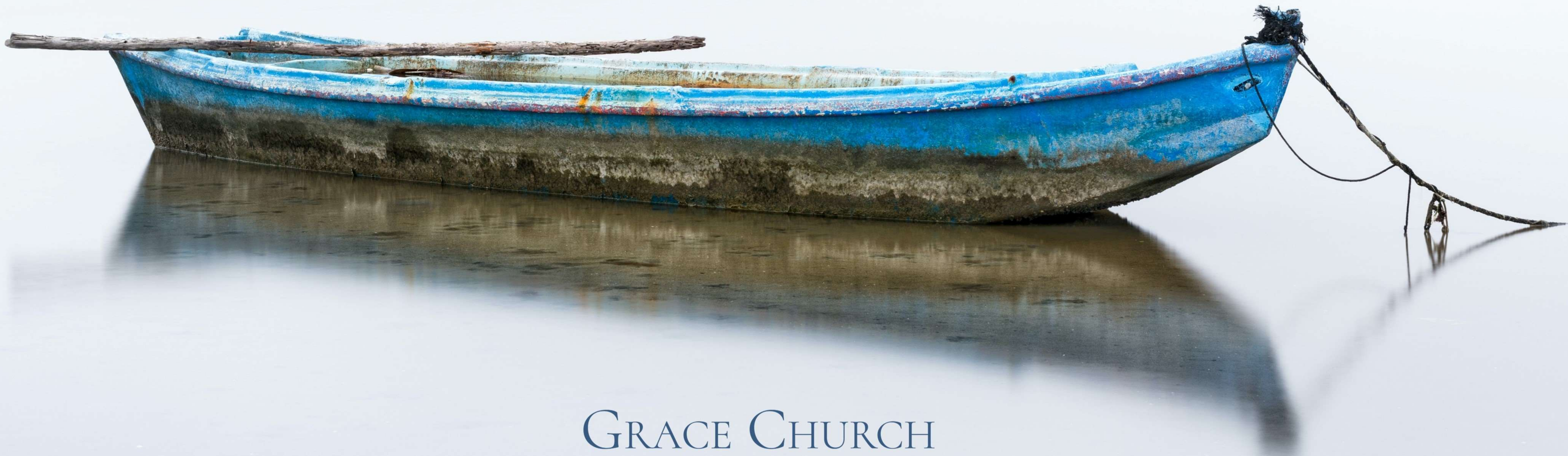
1. Align Your Heart
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- 4. Act in God's Favor (1 Peter 2:20)**

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- 4. Act in God's Favor (1 Peter 2:20)**

- When we are true to Jesus and do what is right in His sight, and the world chooses to **give** us what we **don't** deserve and to **withhold** from us what we **do** deserve, the Lord will give you what **He determines** you deserve for being faithful to Him.

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