

Summary of Contents

1 Peter

Summary of Argument

Greeting (1:1–2)

- Peter addresses the recipients as **foreigners and exiles**, who are **God's elect**.
- Peter shows **Trinitarian** insight:
 - **Chosen** according to the foreknowledge of the Father.
 - **Sanctified** through the Spirit.
 - **Obedient** to Jesus Christ and **sprinkled** with his blood.

Blessing (1:3–12)

- New birth into a **living hope** and **unfading inheritance** through Christ's resurrection (v3-4).
- Audience is shielded by God until the *day of salvation* (v5).
- **Rejoice** in this **even through trials** (v6); these prove genuineness of faith, which produces praise glory and honour at Christ's revealing (v7).
- Audience has not seen Christ, but they joy in him, and are **receiving salvation**, the result of their faith (v8-9).
- Prophets were pointing to the **sufferings** and glories of Christ; this was for the audience's sake (v10-12).

First Response to Suffering: Creating a Holy Community (1:13–2:10)

Call to Holy Living (1:13–25)

- Set your hope on the grace brought in Christ's coming (v13).
- Therefore, live **holy lives** (v14-16).
- Live your time as foreigners in **reverent fear** of the impartial judge because you were redeemed by the imperishable, precious blood of Christ (v17-19)
- Love one another deeply (v22).
- You are **born again** through the enduring word of God (v23-25).

Creation of Vibrant Community (2:1–10)

- Rid yourselves of evil and crave pure spiritual milk (v1-3)
- Christ is the cornerstone of the church (v4-8)
- Christ is a stumbling block to those destined to not believe (v7-8)
- You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, *that you may declare God's praises* (v9).
- You have become the people of God and received mercy (v10).

Second Response to Suffering: Winsome Witness in Society (2:11–4:19)

Good Conduct for the Sake of Evangelism (2:11–12)

- As foreigners and exiles, **abstain from sin**, and **live good lives as a witness** among pagans, that they may see and glorify God on the day of visitation (v11-12).

Specific Examples of Submitting to Authorities (2:13–3:7)

Citizens with Government (2:13–17)

- **Submit** to civil authorities (v13-14).
- Use your freedom to **do good**, and **abstain from evil** (v15-16).
- Show everyone their **due respect**: believers, God, and emperor (v17).

Slaves with Masters (2:18–20)

- Slaves **submit** to good and harsh masters alike (v18).
 - It is commendable to endure suffering for doing good (19-20).

Christ's example of righteous suffering (2:21-25)

- **Christ as our example** in righteous suffering (v21-25)
 - He entrusted himself to God, and bore our sins that we might **die to sin and live for righteousness**, being reconciled to God (v24-25).

Greeting

Addresses God's elect, scattered exiles, chosen for obedience to Christ and sprinkling with his blood.

Pre-empting their true home and purpose.

Introduction

Christians have a living hope and unfading inheritance through Christ's resurrection, and are shielded by God until the coming day of salvation.

∴ Rejoice even through trials of suffering. Christ is your example.

Because of this hope:

Live Holy

∴ Live holy lives, because God is holy.

Live your time as exiles in reverent fear of the just judge, because you have been redeemed.

Since you are born again:

A Holy Nation

∴ Live as the holy community you are.

Under Christ the cornerstone, you are living stones and holy nation. Offer praises and spiritual sacrifices. Care for one another.

As this chosen people:

Good lives as witness

∴ Live good lives as a witness.

Live good lives among the pagans so they may see and glorify God.

Submit to civil authorities

Submit to and respect civil authorities. Silence them by your ethical conduct.

Slaves submit to masters

Submit even to unjust masters. It is commendable to suffer for doing good.

Christ as the example

Christ, though righteous, endured unjust suffering, and entrusted himself to God. He bore our sins and brought reconciliation.

What does good life as a witness look like? Submission .

Wives with Husbands (3:1–7)

- Christian wives to **submit** to non-Christian husbands and **live reverent lives** as a witness (v1-2).
- **Adorn selves inwardly**, not outwardly (v3-6). Character before clothing!
- Husbands to treat wives with **considerate respect** and as **co-heirs** (v7).

Witness in marriage

Submit to non-Christian husbands, living reverent lives as a witness. Husbands to respect wives.

More General Principles Concerning Undeserved Suffering (3:8–4:6)

A Submissive, Non-Retaliating Spirit (3:8–12)

- **Love one another** and **repay evil with blessing** (v8-9).
- Ps 34 quoted to support **righteous living** even in the face of evil (v10-12).

The Unlikelihood of Suffering for Doing Good (3:13–17)

- Unlikelihood of and blessing for **suffering for doing good** (v13-14).
- Be prepared to gently and respectfully **give an account for your hope** (v15-16).
- It is better to **suffer for doing good** than evil (v17).

The Example of Jesus (3:18–22)

- Christ, though righteous, **suffered** to bring the unrighteous to God (v18a). He was **put to death in the body, but made alive by the Spirit** (v18b).

The Victory His Atonement Makes Possible for Us (4:1–6)

- Arm yourself with Christ's attitude in suffering (v1a).
- Whoever **suffers in the body lives no longer for sinful desires, but for the will of God** (v1b-2).
- People living for sinful desires must give an account (v3-5).
- The gospel was preached to the dead (martyrs?) that **though dead in the body, they may have life in the spirit** (v6).

Love one another deeply (4:7–11)

- Live lives characterized by **deep love** and service before the end of all things, to the praise of God (v7-11).

Overall Summary (4:12–19)

- **Expect and rejoice in suffering** for being a Christian (v12-16).
- Judgement is coming on the righteous and the sinner. **Entrust yourself to God and continue to do good** (v17-19).

Final Exhortations (5:1–11)

Instructions Concerning Elders (1-5a)

- Elders to willingly, selflessly, and humbly **care for those entrusted to them**, looking to the unfading crown of glory at Christ's coming (v1-4).
- Young to **submit to elders** (v5a).

Exhortational Summary (5b-11)

- **Clothe selves with humility** under God, **entrusting themselves to him** (v5b-7).
- Be alert and **stand firm** in the faith, resisting the prowling devil (v8-9).
- God has called you, and will restore, strengthen, and fasten you (v10).

Closing (5:12–14)

- Purpose: "Encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it." (v12).

Endure righteous suffering

∴ While living a holy life, **submit even to suffering**.

Repay evil with blessing. It is better to suffer for doing good than evil.

For:

Christ as the example (pt2)

Christ is your example in righteous suffering, and as he was vindicated, so you will be. All things are now in submission to him.

Since Christ suffered:

Live for the will of God

∴ Take his attitude. Live not for evil desires but for the will of God.

Christ's suffering enables us to live no longer for sin (which will be judged), but for the will of God. The gospel is preached so that though we die bodily, we may live spiritually.

The end of all things is near:

Love one another deeply

∴ Be wise & love one another deeply.

Rejoice in suffering

Expect and rejoice in suffering for the name of Christ. Entrust yourself to God and continue to do good.

Elders to be shepherds

Elders to care well for their flock. Young to submit to elders.

Everyone ought:

Stand firmly and humbly

Everyone to be humble. Resist the devil and stand firm in the faith.

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Key Message

Elect foreigners and exiles, stand firm in holy living, entrusting yourself to God and enduring your righteous sufferings for the sake of Christ, with him as your example, looking to and hoping in your vindication at Christ's coming. (See also 5:12)