



# STRANGERS, PILGRIMS, AND FREE PEOPLE

## 1 PETER 2:17-25

*Christian freedom is not the right to rule ourselves, but the freedom to finally belong rightly to God.*

Peter shows us how the free people of God live in a world where they are not at home. Our conduct reflects our citizenship in heaven and our allegiance to the Shepherd-King.



### KEY VERSES

#### 1 Peter 2:16

"As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God."

#### 1 Peter 2:17

"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."

#### 1 Peter 2:19

"For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully."

#### 1 Peter 2:21

"Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

#### 1 Peter 2:24

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness."

#### 1 Peter 2:25

"For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."



### KEY TRUTHS

- Christian freedom is freedom to belong to God, not self-rule.
- Our conduct is a witness to the world about our King.
- God uses suffering to shape us into the likeness of Christ.
- Christ is both our Substitute and our Pattern.
- We trust the Shepherd with our souls and our future.

### 1 STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS

2:11-15



- We live in this world but do not belong to it.
- Our conversation should be honest among those who do not know God.
- Do good so that foolish accusations are silenced.
- Submit to every ordinance of man "for the Lord's sake."

"Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles..." (2:12)

### 2 FREEDOM IS NOT AUTONOMY

2:16-17



- We are free in Christ—freed from sin and condemnation.
- Do not use freedom as a cloak for evil or selfishness.
- We are God's servants—belonging to Him.
- Honor all men, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

"We submit not because of who they are, but because of whose we are."

### 3 CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE AND SHEPHERD

2:18-25



- Submit even to difficult or unjust authorities.
- Suffer unjustly, endure patiently, and entrust yourself to God.
- Christ did no sin, reviled not again, threatened not.
- He bore our sins on the tree that we might live righteously.
- We were wandering sheep—now returned to our Shepherd.

"Christ... committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." (2:23)



### GREEK WORD INSIGHTS

ἐλεύθερος (eleutheros) – "free"  
Means free from bondage or slavery. Here it describes freedom from sin and condemnation (2:16).

δούλος (doulos) – "servant, slave"  
A bond-servant who belongs completely to his master (2:16). We are freed from sin to serve God.

πάροικος (paroikos) – "stranger, sojourner"  
Refers to someone residing in a place but belonging elsewhere (2:11).



### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

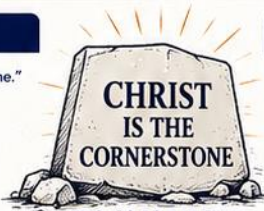
1. Is my freedom expressed as service or as self-rule?
2. How does my conduct reflect the Kingdom I truly belong to?
3. Am I enduring suffering in a way that honors Christ?
4. Do I entrust myself to God for justice and vindication?
5. What does it mean for me today to return to the Shepherd of my soul?

### THE WORLD SAYS

- Freedom means: "Nobody rules me."
- Rights over responsibilities.
- Revile back, defend myself.
- Trust in my own judgment.
- Build my own life.

### PETER SAYS

- Freedom means: "I belong to God."
- Responsibilities flow from calling.
- Revile not again, entrust to God.
- Trust the Shepherd and His Word.
- Build for God's glory.



"Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious." (2:6)

### HOW THIS CHANGES OUR LIVES

**FAITHFUL SUBMISSION**  
Obey authorities, not from fear, but for the Lord's sake.

**BROTHERLY LOVE**  
We protect and build up the family of believers.

**HOLY WITNESS**  
Our lives put to silence ignorance and display Christ.

**ENDURING GRACE**  
We endure unjust suffering as a reflection of Christ.

**SHEPHERD CARE**  
We rest in the care and protection of the Good Shepherd.

**KINGDOM PURPOSE**  
We live as ambassadors of heaven in every place.



We are living stones built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (2:5)



### THE BOTTOM LINE

God has given us a new origin through the Word, built us on the Cornerstone, and placed us in a new people for His glory. Each decision either builds or breaks—but the outcome is not random. It is appointed by God.



### TEACHER NOTE

Use this chart to help learners see the big picture of 1 Peter 2:17-25. Emphasize that our identity as God's people shapes how we live among those who do not share our faith.