

Following in the Footsteps of Jesus [1 Peter 2] By Bob Young

Introduction

Many ways to think about little book of 1 Peter....

- Upward: responding to God, holiness
- Outward: living in the world, today's focus
- Inward: knowing ourselves, the strength to endure suffering and persevere faithfully

Hinge Text: 1 Pet 2:11-12

1. First part points backward, 2:11—primary theme = holiness, manner of life.

Three concepts: holiness, relationship, identity.

I. WE RESTRAIN IMMORALITY IN A CORRUPT WORLD

We are called to holiness, to be like God, so set your hope on grace.

II. WE REMAIN TOGETHER IN A DIVISIVE WORLD

We are called to love, together, like-mindedness, set your affections on one another.

III. WE RETAIN IDENTITY IN A PAGAN WORLD--WHO AND WHOSE WE ARE

2. Second part, 2:12: live such good lives.

*Analysis: All of what follows is based on verb of v. 13: submit

*One controlling main verb in this section tells us what to do, gives the idea. All else is supporting, all the way to 3:15. But...there can be little doubt that the central piece of this section is the admonition to follow Christ (2:21-25)

THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST—Follow in his footsteps. [Songs: Footprints of Jesus; Step by Step]

What does this mean?

Suffering (Isaiah 53 quotations), holiness, not vengeful

Committed to God (section ends as the previous ones, depending on God)

The foundation of our life in Christ

Therefore, Submit...

I. In society, to the structures of the society

Two options for the translation: (1) human governments such as kings and governors, (2) all human being created by God. Contextually, prefer the first.

Ultimately, we are submissive in our manner of life because we know that we are servants/slaves of God (v. 16)

Note completeness of summary in v. 17: all men, brothers in Christ, God, king.

II. In business, in your business or employment relationships

Household servants (slaves).

Ultimately, the question is what is acceptable to God, v. 20

III. In your home (still no main verb, "submit")

Wives, husbands

IV. Finally, all

Different ways to outline this; may prefer to include the section (3:8ff) with what follows.

But as mentioned, the text moves from 2:13 to 3:15 with one controlling, overarching command--submit.

Regardless, from this section we see the transition easily and smoothly into the suffering idea.

Here is how you live. Why? because God is God (3:12)

Conclusion

As Christians, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. When we walk in snow or ice, often we follow footsteps. We have seen the pictures, little children in the shoes of their parents.

To follow Christ is to follow his example of suffering, of holiness, of speech, of lifestyle, of faithfully entrusting all to God. To follow Christ is to follow his example of obedience.