

The Christian and Injustice

1 Peter 2.18-25

¹⁸ Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² 'He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.' (Isaiah 53.9)

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

It is probable that a high percentage of the early Christians were slaves. We have an understandable and natural abhorrence for the institution of slavery, and we thank God that it was overthrown and that the Christian church took the lead in dealing with this ultimate injustice. The Lord Jesus said practically nothing about slavery and his disciples were no more vocal than he, but that does not mean that they were not doing something about it. There was a deep commitment to ministering to both slaves and slave owners so that relationships could change dramatically.

Injustice and the Extreme of Slavery – 1 Peter 2.18-21

Injustice and the Example of the Savior – 1 Peter 2.21-25

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.' Galatians 3.13

²² *If a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a tree, ²³ you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse.* Deuteronomy 21.22-23

⁴ *Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.*
⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*
⁶ *We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.* Isaiah 53.4-6

Injustice and the Experience of the Shepherd

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