

ALIENATED

THE GOSPEL IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD



Scripture

^{2:18} Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

^{3:1} Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. ⁵ For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Peter 2:18-3:7 ESV)

Outline

Big Idea: Christ models grace for us through his suffering on the cross

Point 1. Be mindful of what Jesus suffered on your behalf

Point 2. Win people over through Christ-like actions

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: What is your usual reaction when you are mistreated, misunderstood, treated unfairly or unjustly, or face hardship?

Point 1. Be mindful of what Jesus suffered on your behalf

- How could Jesus' example help when you face hardships you cannot change?
- What specific actions or attitudes can you adopt to demonstrate gratitude for Christ's sacrifice?
- What truths about Christ and His sufferings have made Him appear more glorious or beautiful?

Point 2. Win people over through Christ-like actions

- How can we practically apply the principle of "winning people over through Christ-like actions" in our relationships?
- What specific examples of Christ-like actions are mentioned in this passage, and how can we emulate them?
- How does our understanding of God's grace impact the way we interact with others, especially those who may not share our faith?

Application Questions:

- What does it mean to be "subject for the Lord's sake"? How does this relate to our daily lives?
- What are some of the struggles of the heart when it comes to submission? How do we fight those struggles?
- What are some practical ways you can demonstrate the love of Christ to those around you, even when it's difficult?
- How can you use your own experiences of suffering to minister to others and offer them hope?

Your Prayer

Write out a three-sentence prayer based off this passage.