



Valley Forge Baptist • August 10, 2025

Pastor Scott Wendal • swendal@vfbt.org

When I Am Treated Unfairly!

I Peter 2:13-20

***God has a Perfect Will and
God has a _____ Will.***

God's perfect will is what He instructs in the Word of God.

God's permissive will is what He allows – even sinful things... that eventually accomplish His Sovereign will.

Why does God allow sin and tragedies to occur?

In His Infinite wisdom, God created men with a free will. We are made in God's image with emotion, will, and intellect. When Adam and Eve chose to sin (Romans 5:12), all of the bad consequences of sin entered the world (including natural disasters).

God's perfect will for the government is to protect the innocent and to punish the evil doers (Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 2:14).

Have you ever been treated unfairly? _____!

True and righteous fairness will not come until the Lord Jesus Christ is ruling the world from His throne in Jerusalem.

What does unfair treatment look like today?

- _____
- Judging of motives
- Not treated properly in a business deal.
- Buying an item or service and not getting what you paid for.
- Being passed over for a _____ or a raise.

First Century Christians were called “evil doers.”

- Cannibals – accused of eating their own children.
- Sexual orgies.
- _____.

First Century Christian Persecution:

They lost their jobs, their freedom, and millions lost their lives. They were arrested, tortured, and fed to lions.

In spite of all of this, Peter instructs them how to respond when they are being treated unfairly....

1. As citizens, we are to _____ to the laws of the government, v. 13-14a.

Why does God tell us to obey the government?

A. To _____ God, v. 13

“for the Lord’s sake.”

B. To Do the Will of God, v. 14.

“for so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.”

C. To Follow the _____ of Jesus, v. 21

There were many social injustices in the first century:

- Slavery - 6 million slaves in the Roman Empire.
- Women were mistreated; no legal rights.
- Infanticide – newborn baby girls were often killed.
- Domestic violence, sex trafficking, prostitution, etc.
- Social class inequality (financially and politically).

Jesus and His followers did not lead rebellions or crusades against the social ills of society. Rather, they shared the Gospel, then God changed lives, and the result was improvements for women, children, and places of employment down through the centuries.

Peter is saying, “Be the best citizen you can be!” For us that means to pray and vote. Register to vote... TODAY!

www.pa.gov/services/vote/register-to-vote

We don’t vote for personalities, we vote on principles.
principles do Spirit-filled Christians vote for?

What

Pro-Life; Pro-Family; Pro-Israel; and Pro-Faith.

2. As Government Leaders, they are to fulfill two duties...

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation [or judgment]. For [govt.] rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

Romans 13:1-4

A. To _____ Evildoers.

It is the God-ordained duty of civil power to keep peace and protect its citizens.

"beareth not the sword in vain" means that force, jail, and capital punishment are all tools for the government to use to stop lawbreakers.

Should corrupt government leaders or abusive police be held accountable? Absolutely. If they break the law, they too are to be punished as well.

B. _____ those who do good.

God says that government leaders are to give proper recognition of meritorious citizenship. It's good and right to honor those in the past and present who sacrifice for others.

3. As sufferers of mistreatment, we are to follow godly examples.

Examples of those who were treated unfairly (arrested):

- Jesus willingly went with the soldiers.
- Peter willingly went to jail.
- Paul willingly put his feet in the stocks.
- Stephen willingly went to the Sanhedrin.

What are we to do when there are injustices?

We follow Jesus. We _____ Jesus. We share Jesus with them. Because when they get saved, their heart and mind change. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 says we take our fight to a spiritual dimension. When Paul and Silas were arrested, beaten, and put in stocks, they prayed and sang praises to God. God saved the Philippian jailor and a church was started. There were churches in Philippi for 600 years until earthquakes made the city unlivable.

Peter says those who break the law are wearing a cloak of maliciousness. He says the reason they vandalize and steal is because they have an evil heart that needs to be saved, not because they are protesting some perceived injustice.

4. As Christians, we are to, v. 17:

A. _____ *all men.*

Show honor to everyone. It doesn't mean you have to agree with them or even like them. But we are to show respect to all.

Why? Because they are created in the image of God.

B. _____ *the brotherhood.*

That's everyone in our church. Sometimes it's easy and sometimes it's not... but it's still a command.

C. _____ *God.*

This is when you say, "God, I have a healthy fear of You so that I'm going to do what You say is right... even if I don't understand it.

D. _____ *the King*

We are to submit to government authorities.

5. As Employees, be a good _____, v. 18-20

If you get passed over for a promotion or don't get a raise because of your faith, God will vindicate you. God will be your judge.

But if you get passed over for promotion or miss a raise because you're late, or you're lazy, or you are always griping and complaining about someone or something, then it's your own fault. Peter's message to you is... "It's time to change you ways. Become a better employee and become more like Christ."

When we suffer for Christ, He will reward us. When commanded not to preach in Acts 5, the apostles said, "We ought to obey God more than men."

When we are treated unfairly, be _____, be submissive, be godly, pray for the Lord to save those who are mistreating you, or to work in their hearts. But through it all, don't lose your joy (James 1:2-5) and never stop praising God for who He is and what He does! Mistreatment is not God's perfect will, but if He permits it, let Him use it for His glory.