

1 PETER 2:21-25

JESUS IS THE WAY

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." 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.

Submit to those in authority over you – that is to what we are called.

I've always liked the little rhyme that is popular around Christmas: *Jesus is the reason for the season*. That simple sentence serves as a wonderful reminder of the original significance of our Christmas celebration. Wouldn't it be great if we could come up with an equally catchy phrase to remind us that Jesus is really THE Way – ALL the time. Although those who are more theologically sophisticated than I disparage the WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) fad, I think it is as close as we have come to applying the example of Jesus to our daily lives. Yet, I have to agree that there needs to be something more.

The difference between the Christmas and the daily slogans is that the latter is applied to each specific choice, while former pertains to a way of life. If we truly followed in the steps of Jesus, we would live our lives with a Jesus attitude and would naturally do what Jesus would do when confronted with a choice. The Jesus attitude is one of absolute trust in God. Such a trust is lived out in submission to God.

Think of the last time you flew in an airplane. Let's say that your desired destination was Dallas. After checking in and then having your boarding pass scanned at the gate, you found your seat and waited to arrive in Dallas. Just think about it. You simply submitted yourself to the pilot in the trust that he would safely deliver you. In contrast to driving, you didn't have to make a choice at each intersection as to whether you needed to turn right, left or continue straight ahead...you simply stayed on the plane. The most important choice we have to make in life is to get on board with Jesus, as he was on board with the Father.

That reminds me of a bumper sticker from a number of years ago which read, *God is my co-pilot*. Obviously, this thought is only partially correct. For the Christian, God is in the cockpit, not as co-pilot but the pilot.

Jesus, show me how to submit to the Father. Teach me your attitude so that I might live my life according to your way and your will. Help me to mature in my faith that I might not have to stop and question what your will is, but will be so in synch with you that I will naturally obey you with my life. Amen.