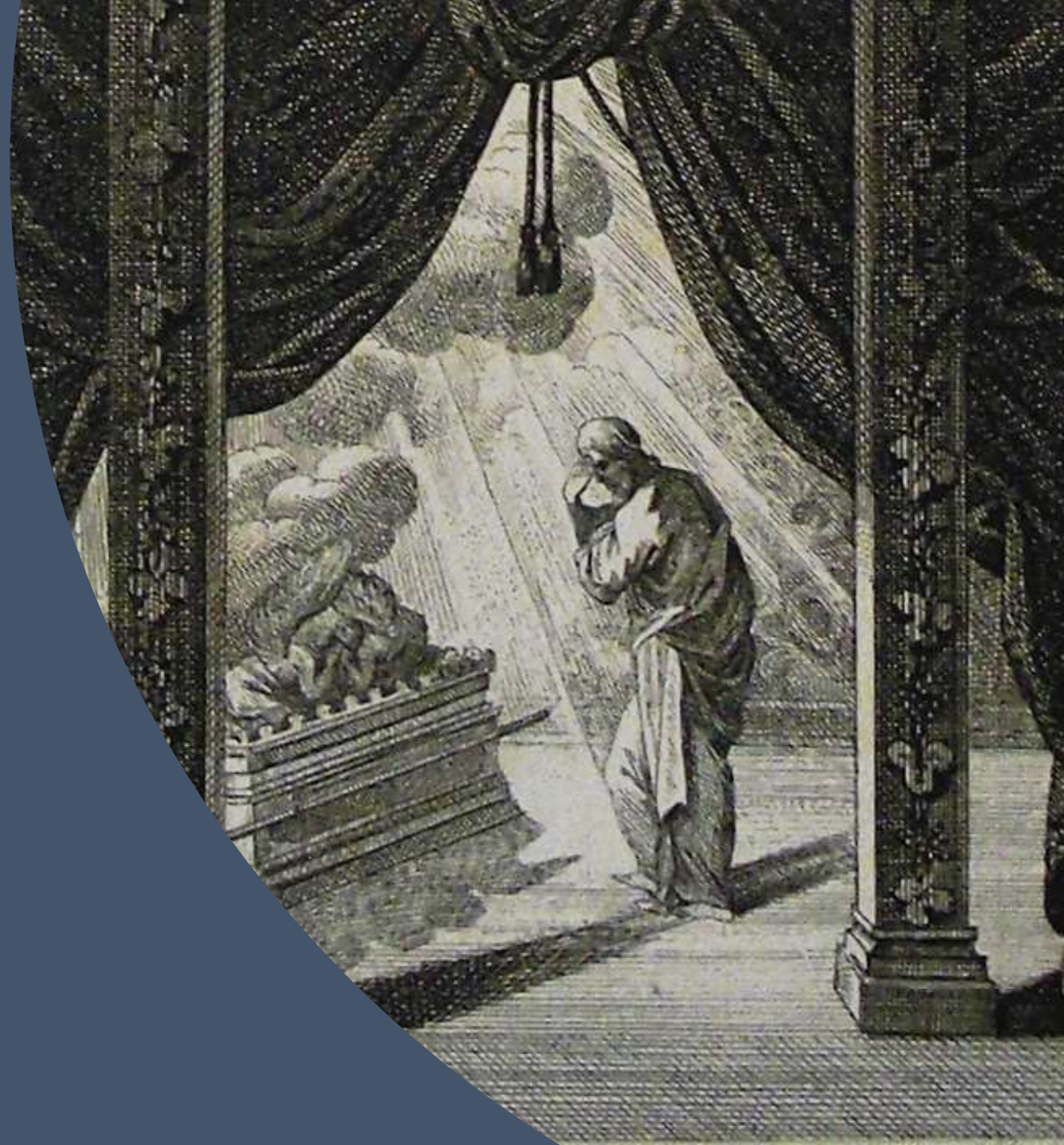


**1 Peter 2:1 1-25**

# Holy Priests...

- Each of us has:
  - Full access to God.
  - Identity as a child of God.
  - Unique role in the church.



## Verses 11 - 12

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbours. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honourable behaviour, and they will give honour to God when he judges the world.

## Verses 13 - 14

For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority – whether the king as head of state, or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honour those who do right.

## Verses 15 - 17

It is God's will that your honourable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

## Verses 18 - 20

You who are slaves must submit to your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you – not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

## Verses 21 - 23

For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.

He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered.

He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

## Verses 23 - 25

He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right.

By his wounds you are healed.

Once you were like sheep who wandered away.

But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.



Christians are pretty despised  
in first-century society.  
They're soon to suffer great  
persecution under Nero.

**A bit of  
context...**



# *What's Peter saying?*

*(to the believers in the 60AD's)*

# Big Picture: Fighting the battle

- There is a battle going on (v11).
- The Christian must fight by resisting temptation (v11).
- When they choose to exercise their freedom, God gets glorified (v12, 15-16).





# Specific battle: submitting to rulers

- Submit to rulers and authorities, rather than becoming bitter.
- Verse 17:
  - Respect everyone (& king).
  - Love the believers.
  - Fear God.



# The goal: Following Jesus' Example

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- Jesus did not:
  - Deceive anyone (v23)
  - Retaliate (v23)
  - Threaten revenge (v23)
- Rather, he:
  - Left judgement to God (v23)
  - Willingly bore suffering for our sins (v24)



# **What's the application?**

(For us today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century)

# 1. Be aware of the battle

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- Worldly desires “wage war against our souls” (v11).
- It’s easy to be imprisoned by these desires.
- It’s harder to resist and remain free.
- Bitterness is one such desire.





## 2. Fight bitterness with honour

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- *Jesus trusted God to judge justly, so I should too (v23)*
- *Jesus prayed for those who hurt him, so I should too (Luke 23:43)*
- *Jesus loved me so much that he laid down his worldly rights, so I should too (1 John 3:16)*



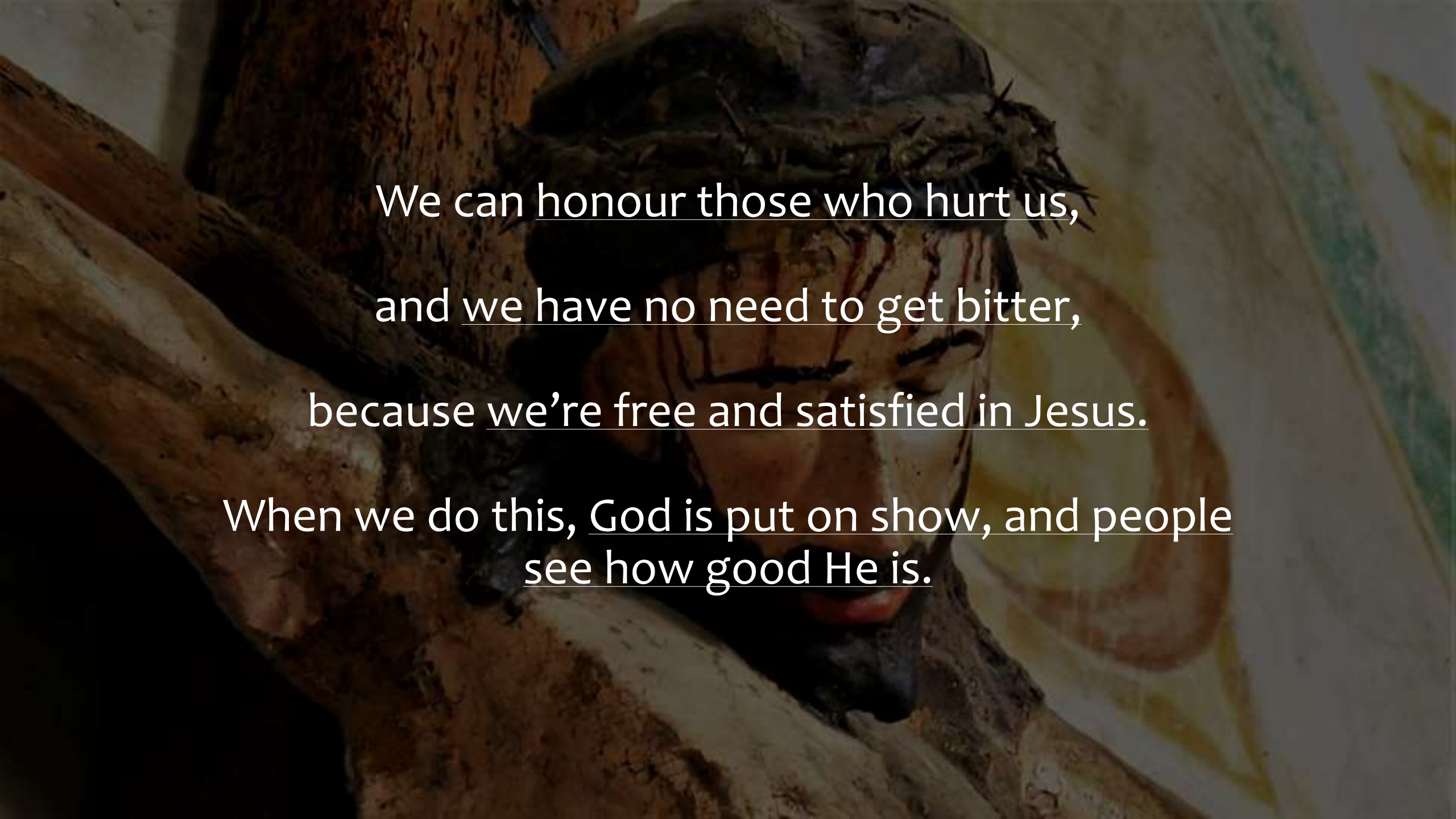


## 2. Fight bitterness with honour

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- *People sin*
- *People get hurt.*
- *God aches.*
- *Jesus avenges.*
- *The wronged is satisfied.*
- *The wrongdoer is cleansed.*





We can honour those who hurt us,  
and we have no need to get bitter,  
because we're free and satisfied in Jesus.  
When we do this, God is put on show, and people  
see how good He is.