



The Freedom of Simplicity "The Right Way to Live"

*1 Peter 2: ²¹⁻²⁵ This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. **He suffered everything that came His way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step.***

*He never did one thing wrong,
Not once said anything amiss.*

*They called Him every name in the book and He said nothing back. He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right. He used His servant body to carry our sins to the Cross so we could be rid of sin, **free to live the right way.** His wounds became your healing. You were lost sheep with no idea who you were or where you were going. Now you're named and kept for good by the Shepherd of your souls.*

Peter tells us that because of what Jesus did for us and we are able to live the right way. **What is the right way to live?** We use the Bible to help us answer this question. Some ask themselves the question before doing something that they are not sure is right, "What would Jesus do?" Some take the Bible very literally and attempt to apply what the writers in the past told their listeners 2000 years ago. Some simply do whatever is right in their own eyes hoping for the best.

In the book Freedom of Simplicity by Richard Foster we have been learning what the metaphor in John 15 means when Jesus describes our relationship with Him as being a branch that has been grafted into a vine. The key phrase in that metaphor is "to abide". We are to rest in His presence as a patient rests on the operating table in order to experience heart surgery. As we seek to allow the Spirit to work in us we are experiencing the very character of God, which allows God to use us to produce His fruit on this earth. I believe that this is what Peter means when he says we become free to live the right way.

Living the right way is not something that we do. Living the right way is what happens to us, as well allowing the Lord to work in us. In the above passage Peter reveals how this new way of life happens to us as we choose to abide in Christ. **Peter tells us that it is through the suffering of this world that we learn how to live the right way.**

The Freedom of Simplicity is the gift that we receive as we embrace the cross and choose to abide in Christ.

Blessings
Pastor Craig