

Outline of 1 Peter (Brown)

1:1–2 Opening Greeting

1:3–12 Thanksgiving and Letter Introduction

- 1:3–5 New birth to a soon-to-arrive salvation
- 1:6–9 Trials that refine and reveal genuine faith
- 1:10–12 Prophetic witness to the present gospel age

1:13–5:11 Body of the Letter: Distinctiveness, Identity, and Allegiance

1:13–2:10 *Exhortations to distinctiveness and realities of Christian identity*

- 1:13–2:3 Calls for hope, holiness, circumspection, love, growth
- 2:4–10 Identity as messianic community/God's people
 - 2:4–8 Living stones built on the living stone
 - 2:9–10 Identity as the people of God

2:11–4:11 *Good behavior and singular allegiance amid opposition*¹

- 2:11–3:12 Domestic code for believers in divided households
 - 2:11–12 Introduction to domestic code
 - 2:13–17 Addressing All Believers: Living in the *polis*²
 - 2:18–25 Addressing Household Slaves: Submission to Masters
 - 3:1–6 Addressing Wives: Submission to Husbands
 - 3:7 Addressing Husbands: Honor to Wives
 - 3:8–12 Conclusion to the domestic code
- 3:13–4:11 Navigating Allegiance to the Messiah and its Opposition
 - 3:13–17 Singular allegiance to the Messiah, even if opposed
 - 3:18–22 The Messiah's example of suffering and vindication
 - 4:1–6 Unimpeachable behavior among non-believers
 - 4:7–11 Love and service within God's household

4:12–5:11 *Final exhortations for situations of suffering*

- 4:12–19 Response to unjust suffering: Rejoice and trust God³
- 5:1–7 Code for the God's household:
 - 5:1–4 Elders to be examples to the flock
 - 5:5a Younger to submit to elders
 - 5:5b–7 All to humble themselves and trust God
- 5:8–11 Final admonitions and promise of restoration

5:12–14 Closing Greetings

¹ Both 2:11 and 4:12 begin with the vocative, "Beloved," which seems an important structural marker.

² Scholars debate whether 2:13–17 is part of the household code proper or whether it begins at 2:18.

³ This section (4:12–19) functions as a hinge, summarizing and culminating themes of suffering that have been prominent in 1 Peter and also introducing and transitioning to how believers are to function together in "the household of God" (4:17), as spelled out in 5:1–7.