

“Submission to the State”

1 Peter 2:13-17

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I. Introduction

- A. Peter called us as God’s people to live “blamelessly” or “beautifully” among unbelievers (v.12)
 - 1. Of all the instructions that we as Christians are to follow in living beautifully in this world, one of the most difficult is to live in “submission.”
 - a) It is difficult but necessary.
 - b) It is following Christ’s example.
 - c) (vv. 21-25) It is “Christ-like”
 - 1) We are to live as Jesus lived. How?
 - a. “Submissively”
 - 2) Where?
 - a. In our nation (v.13)
 - b. In our workplace (v.18)
 - c. In our homes (1 Peter 3:1-7)
 - d. In the church (1 Peter 3:8-12)
 - 2. Today, we look at submission to the state.

II. The Call to Submit (1 Peter 13a)

- A. “Submit yourselves” (v. 13)
 - 1. It’s a command
 - 2. It means to “rank yourselves under”
 - 3. It is a voluntary act
 - 4. It is not just for wives and children
 - 5. It does not convey inferiority
 - a) It is for the purpose of function and order

III. To Whom or What Do We Submit? (1 Peter 2:13-14)

- A. “Every ordinance of man” (v. 13)
 - 1. (v.13) “to the king as supreme”
 - a) It was Nero- Roman Empire
 - 2. “unto governors” (v. 14)
 - 3. There are three divinely ordained institutions:

- a) Marriage and family
- b) The church
- c) Government

1) “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves” (Romans 13:1-2).

B. We, as Christians, are to submit to and obey the powers that be

- 1. Jesus never practiced or commanded civil disobedience.
- 2. Jesus even paid taxes.
- 3. We are to be law-abiding citizens.
- 4. Is it ever okay not to obey the law?
 - a) Yes, if obeying the law means breaking God’s law.
 - 1) Exodus 1- The Hebrew midwives
 - 2) Daniel 3- The three Hebrews and Nebuchadnezzar
 - 3) Daniel 6- Daniel’s prayer and the lion’s den
 - 4) Story of Peter and John (Acts 5:29)
 - 5) Today in our nation, Abortion, same-sex marriage, transgender, and gender-neutral bathrooms

C. The purpose of human government

- 1. “Punishment of evildoers” (v. 14)
 - a) “Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil” (Romans 13:2-4).
- 2. “Praise of well-doers” (v. 14)

IV. The Reasons We Submit (1 Peter 2:15-16)

A. For the Lord’s sake (v. 13)

- 1. It is an order in honor of the Lord

B. To avoid punishment and promote praise (v. 14)

- 1. (Romans 13:2-4)

C. Because it is God’s will (v. 15)

D. To silence foolish men (v. 15)

1. The best defense for Christianity is a beautiful life (v. 12)
- E. Because we are God's servants (v. 16)
1. Not free to live sinfully or selfishly, but instead sacrificially for others
 2. Remember, Jesus said, "ye are the salt of the earth and the light of the world."
 3. Our weapons are not carnal, but we are mighty through God.
 4. We need to preach the Word and pray for the lost world.
 - a) "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).
 5. The only way to change the world is to the men's hearts, and only God can do that through preaching the gospel.

V. The Scope of Our Submission (1 Peter 2:17)

- A. Peter gives us a summary of our duty of submission in four commands (all in the present tense)
1. Keep on showing respect to everyone
 - a) Made in God's image
 2. Keep on loving the brotherhood
 - a) Love your fellow believers
 3. Keep on fearing God (v. 17)
 4. Keep on honoring the Kind
 - a) "Submit to the King" (action) (v. 13)
 - b) "Honor the King" (attitude) (v. 17)
 - 1) It's due respect
 - 2) Respect their place of authority
 - 3) How?
 - a. Pray for them

- b. Submit to them
- c. Obey them