

# Honoring Authority | 1st Peter

WEEK SEVEN | PASTOR **BOB JOHNSTON**

## We are called to submit.

- ◇ Believers have never been permitted to storm the parliament, to revolt against the Prime Minister, to kill the officials, to overtake city hall, to defy the police, or to disobey the law.
- ◇ One exception: when the government commands us to do what God forbids. (Acts 4:19-20, Daniel 6:7-11, Romans 13:1-5)
- ◇ Every person is to submit to the authority over them.

### Why? Authority is by divine decree.

God designed three levels of authority (Romans 13:1)

- ◇ The institution of marriage
- ◇ The institution of God's people
- ◇ The institution of civil government
- ◇ God has created the social order (John 19:10-11)

### Resistance to government is rebellion against God (Romans 13:2)

- ◇ Jesus willingly went to the cross (1 Peter 2:21-23)
- ◇ We submit "for the Lord's sake" (1 Peter 2:13-15)
- ◇ It's a testimony, our obedience to human authority turns into worship to God.
- ◇ We pay our taxes, we obey the laws of the land, if we are employees, we show up on time and leave on time, we give an honest day's work.

### What should believers do?

- ◇ Pray (1 Timothy 2:1-3, Romans 13:4)
- ◇ Vote (Proverbs 29:2, Proverbs 14:34)
- ◇ Get involved, let your voice be heard.

## SCRIPTURES

Acts 4:19-20  
 Daniel 6:7-11  
 Romans 13  
 Matthew 22:21  
 Ephesians 6:12  
 Matthew 24:12  
 2 Thessalonians 2:3

## TAKEAWAY

"Believers are humble, submissive, loving god and obeying the government (1 Peter 2:12, 1 Peter 2:17). It is difficult to honor leaders that are immoral and unjust, but we need to always honor and respect the office of government."

KNOW

# GROW | Small Group Questions

Opening question: Have you ever thrown something out (or given something away) that you later realized you needed? Share this, along with how you felt, and if you took any steps to retrieve the item.

1. Read 1 Peter 2:11-25 together. What good results can we expect from keeping up good conduct among unbelievers (v.11-12)?
2. How can Christians show respect to governments and rulers even when we think they are wrong (v. 13-17)?
3. Peter says God's people should do good and behave well in order to silence their critics. In what other concrete ways can Christians "do good" and "behave well" in order to silence their critics?
4. Read verses 21-25 again. How does Peter say Christ faced suffering and injustice?
  - a. How does Christ's example affect your outlook on the unjust suffering you have faced?

## GO

Peter isn't recommending that people remain passive while suffering violence or seeing injustice. He is urging them to realize that our response through suffering is a way by which the world itself may be brought to a new place.

This week, before responding to any kind of conflict rashly, think of how you should respond, according to what was studied this week.

