

Series: Relationship Reset
Title: Relationship with the Government - Part 2
Scripture: 1 Peter 2:13-17
Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



How can you live _____ in an _____ world?

1 Peter 2:13-15 ESV

3 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

1. For _____ sake, _____

Submission is a choice and a gift you willingly give to honor another who has been given responsibility over you.

When you submit for heaven's sake, it lays the _____ for cultural _____.

2. For freedom's sake, _____

1 Peter 2:16-17 ESV

16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Galatians 5:1 ESV

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

John 8:31-32 ESV

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Fake freedom, serving _____.

Fake Freedom in _____

Fake Freedom in _____

Fake Freedom in _____

Just because you're _____ to, doesn't mean you _____ do.

Philippians 3:20 ESV

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received. mercy.

1 Peter 2:17 ESV

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

As God fearing citizens of _____, _____ and love all by doing _____.

09/21/25

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Getting to know you Questions:

What's the funniest or weirdest "rule" you had to follow as a kid (either at home or school)?

Have you ever accidentally broken a rule? What happened?

Into the Bible Questions:

Read Matthew 1 Peter 2:13-17

1. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?
2. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?
3. Why do you think Peter emphasizes submission "for the Lord's sake" rather than for the government's sake?
4. What are some examples in Scripture of God working through corrupt governments to bring about His purposes?
5. How does remembering the cross help us think differently about unjust leaders or laws?
6. Peter tells believers to "silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good" (v.15). What does that practically mean?
7. How is biblical submission different from blind obedience?
8. How do these verses challenge cultural attitudes about authority and freedom today?
9. How does fake freedom (using freedom to serve self) differ from true freedom (serving God and others)?
10. How might fearing God change the way we respond to political leaders we disagree with?
11. What examples have you seen of Christians honoring authorities even when disagreeing with them?

For Extra Study, Read Romans 13:1-7

- 1. Paul begins with, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities” (Rom. 13:1).**
- 2. Why do you think submission to government is such a repeated theme in the New Testament (cf. 1 Peter 2:13–17)?**
- 3. How does Romans 13 connect the idea of government authority with God’s sovereignty?**
- 4. What’s the difference between submitting to authority out of fear of punishment and submitting “for conscience’ sake” (v.5)?**
- 5. How can Christians disagree with or critique government while still showing honor and respect?**
- 6. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?**
Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

- 1. When was the last time you responded to unfair treatment with kindness?**
- 2. How can you practice “doing good” this week in a way that points people toward Christ?**
- 3. When have you been tempted to use your freedom in Christ as a cover for selfishness?**
- 4. What would change in your life if you truly believed you are free in Christ no matter what government is over you?**
- 5. What’s one area of “fake freedom” (health, relationships, speech, etc.) you need to guard against?**
- 6. What practical steps can you take to use your freedom in Christ to honor people you strongly disagree with?**
- 7. How can you make sure you fear God above fearing people or political powers?**