



Week 5: Be Agents of Grace

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Reading

In this sermon, Pastor Daniel teaches how Christians can honor all people (including governmental leadership), without compromising our Biblical convictions. And we do this by cultivating good in society. The teaching is from 1 Peter 3:8-11.

Read 1 Peter 3:8-11

Before you dive into the text, begin with prayer. Invite God to show you *truths* from the text and *disciplines* you can practice. Take your time through the Scriptures. Read them slowly, thoughtfully, humbly, prayerfully, and practically.

If you are new to reading the Bible, we recommend choosing a version like the New International Version (NIV) or New Living Translation (NLT). We also recommend the YouVersion Bible reading app.

Go ahead and read 1 Peter 3:8-11

Discussion:

"As people who are free, do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but to do good." 1 Peter 2:16

1. 1 Peter 2:16 tells us we should use our freedom not as a cover up for evil, but to do good. With all the turmoil between faith and politics happening today, what are specific ways Christians might stay grounded by "doing good?"

2. Have you found yourself in a conversation with a friend regarding politically charged issues? What might 1 Peter 3:8 teach us about approaching conversations?

3. Our culture is always shaped by the decisions human's make. And Jesus calls us to be cultivators of his common grace in the world (Matthew 5:45-46). What are specific ways you might cultivate good in society?

4. When King Nebuchadnezzar sent an edict against Daniel's biblical convictions, Daniel rightly disobeyed the King to worship God alone. Yet, he simultaneously honored, respected, and served the King. Daniel's ability to stand up for his Biblical convictions, while also serving the King lead to the salvation of the King and common grace to all Babylon.

Do you think you're able to stand up for your Biblical convictions, while also showing honor and respect to our government? What are ways you can balance your convictions *with* love for your neighbor?

Remember, Peter said, "Honor the Emperor," who was a murderer and conspirator against Christians (1 Peter 2:17).

5. The disciples thought the coming Messiah was going to overthrow the government with force and liberate his people. Instead, Jesus humbled himself before his accuser and to death on a cross.

What posture might we learn from Jesus' example?

Respond in prayer.

Think through the truths of Scripture you have learned, and ask God to give you the grace, strength and wisdom to apply them.