

Free People Submit to Authority

As Free People: How Christians Should Live in This World:

- #1: Free People **Endure** with Hope
- #2: Free People **Stay Nourished** by the Word
- #3: Free People **Submit** to Authority

A verse that best describes the culture in which we live: “*In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes*” Judges 21:25 NKJV.

**“In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still.”
President Harry S. Truman (April 12, 1945 - Jan 20, 1953)**

Submit: *to yield the right away, place oneself under the decisions of another; placing others before self. Sub-* (to place under); **Mission** (to accomplish a shared goal)

Any successful organization requires people in SUB-mission (the leader is also in submission to the shared mission):

- Business
- Church & all non-profits
- Family: spouses and children
- Government

What benefits are connected to Submission?

1. Quiet & peaceful life in all godliness & honesty 1 Tim. 2:1-3
2. Great Faith: “...not found so great faith” Matt. 8:5-13
3. Spiritual authority: Jude 1:5-11; James 4:6-10 “Humble... Submit...
Humble yourself under the Mighty Hand of God”

Remember Peter is writing to the “pilgrims of Dispersion” under the ***godless Roman Empire*** (v. 1:1). **1 Peter 2:11-12 NLKV** “Beloved, ***I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims***, abstain from fleshly lusts which war

against the soul, **having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles**, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."

Living FREE Before the World:

1. Avoid fleshly lusts: we save ourselves from inner conflict
2. We gain the right to witness to others
3. Christians glorify God with honorable conduct

Live FREE Through Submission to Man's Rules and Governmental Authorities: 1 Peter 2:13-14 NKJV *"Therefore **submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake**, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.*

1 Peter 2:15-17 NKJV *"**For this is the will of God**, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—**as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God**. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."*

Why Submission is a Sign of Freedom:

1. For the Lord's sake - In Christ, we are not under bondage
2. We show we are bondservants of God
3. Vs. 17: Honor ALL people; Love the brotherhood; Fear God; Honor the king

Paul Agrees with Peter Romans 13:1-5 NKJV *"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... For he is God's minister to you for*

good...Therefore, you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake."

Exception to the rule: Acts 4:18-20 *"...the leaders called in Peter and John. They commanded them not to speak or teach at all in Jesus' name. But Peter and John replied, 'Which is right from God's point of view? Should we listen to you? Or should we listen to God? You be the judges! There's nothing else we can do. We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard'."*

Action Steps:

- Forgive the authorities in life that hardened your heart.
- Trust God's authority over your life; respect authorities that God has placed over you: SUB-mission
- Pray for ALL who are in authority - great for the attitude

See At-Home Study Guide and/or Discussion points on your Church 212° app to use for your personal Bible study or to study with a group.