

### **1 Peter 2:13-17 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**13** 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. **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.

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

When you hear the words submit or submission, what comes to mind? What is your honest gut-reaction to those words?

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. Do you find Peter's words to be challenging or encouraging? Do you find this command easy to practice as a Christian or difficult? Why?

What qualifications does Peter make on which leaders Christians should honor or submit to?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. What does Peter say about our identity as Christians? Who are we?

In light of our identity, what does Peter call us to do in verses 9-12? How are we supposed to live?

Do you ever feel like an alien or stranger in this world because of your faith? Can you give an example?

Do you ever feel a tension between your identity as a Christian and your identity as an American? According to Peter, what should a Christian's relationship to his or her nation be?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. What does it mean to be an ambassador? What is expected of an ambassador? What does it mean for us as Christians to live an ambassador's for Christ?

One way we honor government leaders is by praying for them. How specifically should Christians pray for American officials?

Another way we show honor to authorities and to Christ is by living as model citizens. Are there areas where you struggle to submit to the laws (i.e. driving the speed limit)? How can your group help you in these areas?

**Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**

**Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?**

**Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**