

1 PETER

A LIVING HOPE IN CHRIST



**We submit to earthly institutions
out of reverence for God and after
the example of Christ.**

1 Peter 2:12

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.



At the time of this letter, Nero was the Roman emperor.

He is remembered as a tyrannical ruler who initiated the first major persecution of Christians.

1 Peter 2:13-16

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.



1 Peter 2:13-16

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.



Three reasons why Christians should submit to divinely ordained authorities:

- 1. It is the will of God. (2:13-15)**
- 2. It will provide a good witness. (2:15)**
- 3. It reveals that we are free in Christ and slaves to God. (2:16)**



We submit to earthly authority out of allegiance and obedience to our one true king. Rulers, governors, and presidents all come and go. But they are all ultimately under the rulership of God.

Civil Disobedience

Examples from the Bible include:

- **Peter and the apostles said in Acts 5:29 (when they stood in the Sanhedrin, the Jewish Supreme Court,) “We must obey God rather than people.”**

Civil Disobedience

Examples from the Bible include:

- We know from Exodus 1 that God was pleased when the Egyptian midwives rightly disobeyed Pharaoh's command to kill the newborn babies out of their fear of God.**

Civil Disobedience

Examples from the Bible include:

- **We remember the courageous Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendego in Daniel 3 who refused to worship King Nebuchadnezzar statue out of reverence for Yahweh.**

Civil Disobedience

Examples from the Bible include:

- **Daniel faithfully refused to follow legislation that prohibited prayer to God in Daniel 3.**

1 Peter 2:17

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



“The way you respect a scoundrel like Judas and the way you respect a saint like John will look different. But there is a way.”

JOHN PIPER

1 Peter 2:17

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



“Peter reminds us to “fear” with reverent awe no one other than our Sovereign Lord and King. Adulations (excessive praise) given to some politicians in our day are improper for believers. God belongs in a category of respect, awe, fear and worship that rightly belongs to Him. He will accept no competition.”

DANIEL AKIN

1 Peter 2:18-20

18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. 19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.



1 Peter 2:18-20

20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.



Peter tells his audience in verse 20 to weigh the “spiritual logic” of the situation by asking the rhetorical question:

For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

This letter is so timely to Peter's audience and to us. We may endure suffering on account of our faith, but this is precious in the sight of God, when we endure and stay faithful to Christ.

We look to Jesus when this happens to us as the example to follow.

1 Peter 2:21-25

21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.



1 Peter 2:21-25

22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.



1 Peter 2:21-25

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.