

1 Peter 2:11-17  
“Hope In A Hostile World”

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (1 Peter 2:11-17) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I titled today's message: “The Right Response to Government Power”

~ INTRO ~

NOW... LET'S REMEMBER...

- The flow of topics Peter covered over the last few weeks.

AT THE END OF (CHP# 1) PETER WAS EXHORTING THE CHURCH:

- a) Why we are to live different – Ransomed / cleansed / born again.
- b) How we are to live different – Actions & attitudes that set us apart.

THEN IN OUR LAST STUDY...

- He transitioned into...
  - c) The privilege of being able to live different.
    - Because Christ is our *Cornerstone!*
- He's the foundation / source of strength / & holds everything together.
  - AND believers are *Living Stones*.

(1 Peter 2:4) NET version says:

- “*as you come to him...*”
  - IN a personal, intimate, & habitual relationship.
    - The Son of God... is OUR source of life.
  - And thru Him we have 24/7 access to the God the Father!
- d) The purpose behind living different.
- (v.9) NLT “*show others*” (*Ex – Ang – El’ – Lo*)

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IN OTHER WORDS... “*the purpose*”...

- Christian’s are to be the living demonstration of God’s will on earth.

**~ STUDY ~**

NOW...

- We move forward into the core conversation of Peter’s Epistle...
  - And the main topic that he gives to the church...
    - For maintaining *Hope in a Hostile World*...
      - **“Submission!”**
- A very real issue for the Church during the time of Peter’s writing.
  - And equally critical for the Church in America in 2021.

**HERE’S WHAT THE TEXT SAYS:**

- (1 Peter 2:11-17) NLT

OK...

- Fundamentally **“The Right Response to Power”** (a.k.a. submission)...
  - Is covered in FOUR distinct areas:
    - 1) Government leaders (2:13-17)
    - 2) Bosses and business (2:18-25)
    - 3) Household structure (3:1-7)
    - 4) Church order (3:8-12)

LET’S DEFINE *SUBMISSION*...

- And give the general purpose within these FOUR categories.

***SUBMISSION***...

- In the BIG context here...
  - Is the recognition of God’s authority IN & OVER our lives!

GOD HAS CREATED THE INSTITUTIONS...

- And He alone has the right to direct our thoughts & actions...
  - Within these institutions.

**IDEA #1 – “BASIC MOTIVATION”** (vv.11-12) NLT

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The **purpose** behind living different.

- (v.9) NLT “*show others*” (*Ex – Ang – El’ – Lo*)

THEREFORE...

- Even though our values & beliefs are REJECTED...
  - By the world...
- The Christian is to abstain from ALL immorality!

THIS BRINGS HONOR TO GOD...

- And is the kind of life that wins others to Chris!

(Matt. 5:16) NLT

“... *let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father.*”

READ (Titus 3:8) NKJV

**IDEA #2 – “SCOPE & PURPOSE”** (vv.13-17) NLT

NOW...

- This is where the confusion often starts at (v.13)...
  - With the word “*ordinance of man*”

THE MEANING IS = *Institution*.

- And it does NOT refer to every individual law!

SO... THE CONCEPT...

- Only covers the institutions that make OR enforce laws.

COMMENTATORS POINT OUT – (Wiersbe)...

- That you can be submitted to the institution...
  - And disobey an individual law.

**\*Example:** (Acts 4:19) NKJV

- Peter & John at the beginning of the Church.

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**HELPFUL POINTERS FOR UNDERSTANDING:**

- 1) **Respect the institution – because it’s created by God!**
  - (Rom. 13:1-7) NKJV

SUBMISSION TO AUTHORITY...

- **Must honor God** who established the institution.

IF IT’S IN CONFLICT...

- With God’s revealed will – (the teaching of scripture)...
  - Then we are NOT to submit to it!
- We have to bypass the broken-link when these two collide...
  - By going directly to God!

**CONSIDER** SOME HOT TOPICS OF THE MOMENT:

- Abortion laws
- Gender laws
- Marriage laws
  - These are issues / laws that collide with God’s word.

WITH ALL THIS IN MIND...

- Understand...

- 2) You may not be able to respect the person holding an office.
  - **Yet you must honor the institution!**

- 3) You may not be able to obey every law.
  - **Yet you must honor the institution!**

- 4) You must never allow the law to violate your conscience.
  - **Yet you must honor the institution!**

BEYOND THESE CONCEPTS...

- The book of (Acts) teaches us that there are times...
  - We should set aside our rights...
    - AND at other times we should use our citizenship...
      - Just as Paul did.

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EXPLORE YOURSELF:

(Acts 16:23-24 & 35-38) / (Acts 22:24-29) / (Acts 25:10-11)

**QUOTE:**

*“A true Christian submits himself to authority because he is first submitted to Christ. He uses his freedom as a tool to build with AND not a weapon to fight with.” (Wiersbe, 2007).*

**~ IN CLOSING ~**

IN (v.17)...

BECAUSE WE’RE LIVING STONES (v.5)

- We are on display for the world to watch us.
  - Our response to authority should be **“Submission”** ...
    - In all areas of our lives!

AND JUST LIKE IN (Matt. 7:7)...

- Keep on asking... keep on seeking... keep in knocking.

SO TOO...

- These also carry the idea of “keeping on”
  1. Honor all people (Eph. 5:21) *submitting to one another*
  2. Love the brotherhood
  3. Fear God = reverence that leads to obedience
  4. Honor the king.

(Proverbs 24:21)

*“fear the Lord and the king...”*

**~ LET’S PRAY ~**