

Strange World Good God - 4
Glorious Purpose

1 Peter 2:13-25

Good Morning Newsong Church!! What an awesome day to be here with you. I mean you made it to church in the middle of summer, that in of itself is amazing. I'd like to welcome our first time guest , whether you are watching online or in the room, you are not here by accident or Chance but we believe that God has a word for you today.

Mostly everyone knows who I am but in any case you don't, My name is Jacob! I have the amazing honor of Being the Youth Director here at Newsong Church.

We have so much fun at Newsong Youth and most importantly our goal is to make disciples

of Christ who can make disciples themselves. So if you are a teen yourself or know of someone who is in the age range from 12-18 bring them over!

Something that I've learned while in ministry, Is honor. We honor up, down and all around. So before we go any further, I'd like to Thank our lead Pastors Mike & Cyndie

for all the hard work and love you show to your church. Thank you for leading the church and the pastoral staff team well. We love you!

As you may know we've been in a sermon series called "Strange World, Good God"

We're going verse by verse through the book of Peter and I don't know about you but its been so amazing. There's so much good stuff in this book.

In week one we learned that we are a chosen people, something that can't be taken away from us.

In week two we learned that we need to play by God's rules and to keep moving forward.

Week Three, Last week Pastor Barbara did an amazing Job reminding us that we are a special people and that we have a purpose in Christ Jesus.

This has also been a challenging series.

Peter tells us ***do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance***. Ouch Peter. Like yeah we aren't perfect but you're calling ignorant too.

He says the word of the Lord Endures forever, and the church is like amen Peter!! Then he says you need to stop how you're living.

I'm sure they were thinking cmon Pete don't you know what we're going through right now.

You see this was a letter to the early church. Roughly 30 years after Christ's resurrection and

.
Peter is writing this letter to the churches that were located in what is now modern day Turkey

And he's writing to encourage them because they are going through intense persecution and suffering because they love and follow Jesus.

Before we go any further lets Pray

PRAY

I'd like to just pose this question to you, What's the hardest doctrine in the bible?

It's definitely a loaded question and a trick one, some might say well the hardest thing to understand is the trinity. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Three in one.

You may say the hardest doctrine is
Submission...which is what I'm talking about today, is the hardest thing to do and accept.

I know everyone in the room is happy, they are not me today.

Let me just say this now we're going in the deep today and In our text Peter brings out the doctrine of submission and is kind of a repeating theme over the next few verses and even leading into the next chapter.

Let's read 1 Peter 2:13-17 NLT

For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, 14 or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

15 It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 16 For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. 17 Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

No one likes submission, absolutely no one. No one likes to be told what to do. No one likes it when a choice is being taken away from them. People like their freedom, right? You can say that Freedom is what this country was based on when it was founded.

We have freedom from the restrictive laws that come with a controlling or corrupt government.

But the problem of Submission is it's more than just America, It's just In our nature.

I was driving to work this week on the highway, the GPS says get off at this exit. I go right by it, thinking this thing must be glitching out, I never get off this early. Right away it reroutes, get off in the next mile. Instead of listening to the Super computer we call phones, that is programmed to tell me where to go, I keep going on the highway.

What happens? All I see is brake lights and I'm stuck in heavy traffic andddd Im late for work.

Let's get a working definition of what Peter's talking about when he says that we should submit...because for most people this word is like a curse word...It's like the "s" word...it's

offensive in our culture...you want me to what?
Who do you think you are?

The Greek word for submit is **hoop-ot-as'-so**
(HOOP O TAS SO)

It was often used from a military standpoint...to submit meant that soldiers were arranged in such a way where they could be under the command of their leader...

But it was also used in a non-military way...in which case the word **hoop-ot-as'-so (or submit)** means “a voluntary attitude of cooperation”

now doesn't that sound okay?

See when we hear the word submit or submission we automatically think in the negative...and maybe that's because we live in a fallen world, where we've seen people in authority, or people with power use it in an abusive way...

But that's not the biblical meaning...In fact, if that's your idea of submission then you need to ask the Holy Spirit to help you transform your thinking...because biblical submission isn't flexing your power...it's yielding your power...it's not selfish or self-serving, it's selfless...it's for the good of others...

Now remember the context...Peter's writing to the church that is suffering intense persecution by the Roman Empire... they're living in a strange world...and He's telling them how they should conduct themselves in this strange world...Notice what he says...

“For the Lord's sake...submit”

Peter's reminding us that no matter what's going on around us...

No matter what's going on economically, socially, politically, spiritually, as Christians we're to live our lives in such a way that would bring glory and honor to God!

Peter just got done telling us that God chose us...we've been adopted into His family, He's our Father, we're His children...which means that we need to act like we're His kids!

So everything we do, everything we say, should be done with a heart that wants to please our heavenly Father! We like to call this living a God-First life...I put God first...I submit to Him first...I love and obey Him first...

How do we do that in this strange world? Peter tells us that we need to submit...I mean ***voluntarily cooperate*** with... And for your First point write this down.

We need to Submit to Our **GOVERNMENT**

I know some of us may be thinking, well how are we even supposed to submit to a government that's like ours in today's age? That's not even Possible.

Yeah it can seem a bit crazy to say that but do you remember what government the early church had in the new testament.... Let's look at their background for a minute

Peter was writing to a church, whose Government was filled with Tyrants. Filled with corruption! When Peter said Submit to the Kings and all authority, There was no democracy in Rome, there was no voting for who the next king will be.

The king, Caesar, made the rules and that was their law, their religion. In this time it was Caesar Nero who was in charge but he was still corrupt and evil.

- During this time Roman Citizens had to pay their respect and worship to Caesar once a year by going before an altar with some incense and Say Caesar is Lord. This was a huge problem for the early believers. When they would not say Caesar is lord they would face persecution.
- What about Herod? The guy who was so afraid of someone replacing him with the power he had that when he heard about Jesus he wanted every baby under two years old killed.

Then there were taxes, the taxes the Roman empire forced upon the people were crushing and a form of injustice.

Jesus came into that world as the messiah but not what the Jewish People were expecting.

They thought they'd have a king that would rescue them from Rome.

You never See Jesus telling his disciples to storm the emperor's palace or to protest in the streets with picket signs. He never tried to start A rebellion of the government. He never tried to win any cultural war that was going on.

In Fact when the Pharisees were trying to trap him with their, as they usually did, look how he responded

Matthew 22:15-22 NLT

15 Then the Pharisees met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. 16 They sent some of their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to meet with him. "Teacher," they said, "we know how honest you are. You teach the way of God

truthfully. You are impartial and don't play favorites. 17 Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

18 But Jesus knew their evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Why are you trying to trap me? 19 Here, show me the coin used for the tax." When they handed him a Roman coin,[\[a\]](#)

20 he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" 21 "Caesar's," they replied. "Well, then," he said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." 22 His reply amazed them, and they went away.

Jesus always had the coolest responses, you hypocrites, whose face is stamped on that coin. Then pay to Caesar what belongs to him but Give God what belongs to God.

So in a world where there is a corrupt government, what do christians do? How should we respond?

Peter, with all the knowledge we have now of the time he was living in, Said Submit to all Human authority. And Peter takes it a step further too.

1 Peter 2:14 NLT 14 or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

Who were the officials? People like Pontius Pilate who was Procurator or a Governor.

So we have to ask the question: is there ever a time when Christians can defy or not obey the government?

Yes there is....

The rule is we should SUBMIT, until Submitting to Earthly authority makes you not submit to heavenly authority.

Obey until your obedience makes you disobey God.

Remember Daniel chapter 3? King Nebuchadnezzar set up a golden statue of himself, 90 Feet high and 9 feet wide. saying Once you hear us blow this horn everyone must get down on the ground and worship me as your God.

Daniel Chapter 3:12 ***But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up.*** King Nebuchadnezzar says that's it i'll give you one more chance. Bow down and worship or you're going in the blazing furnace.

Jump down to verse 16

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty.

18 But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never

serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”

Did you catch the sassiness in that one? *We want to make it clear to you, Your majesty, even if God doesn't save us from the furnace, we will never serve your God or worship that statute.*

We see this again in the New testament. Peter and John are pulled in front of the sanhedrin, they passed a law that You can not preach the name of Jesus any more. You can not talk about the Gospel. Look at how Peter and John respond.

Acts chapter 4: 18 So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him?”

20 We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

And guess what happened after Peter and John left, they met with all the other believers and told them what happened. They prayed together and the Holy spirit fell and they were filled with Boldness to continue preaching.

Don't get me wrong, Christians aren't called to be lap dogs for the government, well whatever you say. No God is always higher than the government in our lives!!

Why do we submit to human authority? Peter says for the Lord's sake. In other words when we submit we are honoring God. What if christians were stabilizers in a chaotic world? I think it's possible and we have already done this throughout history.

Let's look back at our text

1 Peter Chapter 2: down in verse 17 17
Respect everyone, and love the family of
believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

For your notes write this down, we submit to our government we **Submit to our EMPLOYER**

Remember Peter is writing this letter with the idea that we are in strange times. But we serve almighty God. So we should Live our lives in a way that points heavenwards, to a higher purpose. Peter says yes you have to submit to your government but also to your employer. In this case the ancient master and the slave. I know the church was looking at this letter like Peter, you want me to do what???

18 You who are slaves must submit to your
masters with all respect. Do what they tell

you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. 19 For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. 20 Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

21 For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

Did you know that some studies say we will spend 1 third of our lives at work. Some say that's about 90,000 hours at work. One study says by the time you are seventy years old you would have worked for twenty years straight. As in nonstop work for twenty long years.

We spend so much time at work and Peter is saying again we need to submit? Remember what we are called to!

Now I want to recognize and say to you that verse 18 has been taken out of context to try to further hate, to Further racism. This was in no way the intention of the writer or the bible. We will touch on this more but let's continue

In the Roman empire, when this letter was written, slaves were the workforce of the romans empire and many of those who were receiving this letter from Peter.

The word being used here for Slave or servant is the typical work in the Greek language. The typical word is Doulos *DEWLOS*

The word used here is the word Oiketai, which means household servant. This means the position they held could've been anything from a doctor to someone who did menial tasks. They could be managers or teachers or farmers

of the sort. But the word being used for Master still meant someone who had complete control or authority over someone.

The roman empire had 60 million people who were slaves. So Half of the empire were slaves!! I'm sure there were great masters whose servants were part of the family and treated them as such. But this means there were still masters who were harsh. Roman viewed a slave as property, meaning they had no rights and little protection.

This has been an idea that has been going around the earth for a long time.

You know people love to quote philosophers. The Greek philosopher. Aristotle said that servants and slaves were living tools.

What is Peter to say to a group of people being treated and seen like this? Submit. He's saying use your situation, you are a slave, do it in a

way that still someone will see the message of Jesus.

Slavery is wrong, in all accounts. The bible sees it as wrong!! Listen to me, the very idea of slavery goes against the entire idea of redemption that's played throughout the bible. We were captive to sin until set free or bought with a price and that's Christ Jesus.

Look at Passover, the yearly celebration where the jewish people remember and celebrate their freedom.

The New Testament and the bible as a whole is such a powerful book and its principles that eventually slavery would become extinct in the roman empire. Scholars actually say that the reason the slavery declined in the second century AD and went away in the 4th was because people became devoted christians!!!

People became christians and started to look at each other the way God sees you and I, as humans and not tools or objects. That's the power of Jesus, when he gets in our hearts, he starts to transform us from the inside out and we begin to see things with a new perspective.

As time went on slavery would come up again so did the anti slavery movements. A good portion were led by christians themselves. For the history buffs you see William wilberforce , John newton the man who wrote the song Amazing grace.

Even when Peter said submit to your masters, that was still enough for Jesus to shine through their actions and start to change everything.

How can we apply this to our lives today? Well in everything you do, do it for the glory of God. That means while at work, wherever you are, show God's love. Show his kindness to others. Christians should be a prime example of a good employee, someone who is willing, willing to do

the extra work, go the extra mile, talk with the customer who complains the most. Why? All for the glory of Jesus!!!

*In verse 20 Peter says: **But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.*** That means sometimes we will have trials at work or have a harsh boss at work. Despite whether you have a good boss or a harsh boss, we can still show God's goodness. Good or bad in our lives he stays the same. So we should still take opportunity.

If you love your job or hate it. What if we had the mindset of God placed me for a reason. Maybe he wants to use me in a way he hasn't done before. Maybe he's preparing me for the next season in our lives.

Remember what Jesus said in **John chapter 13:**

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Love one another and because of this they will know you're christian. Something that's been said to me and actually something we say in our youth group. I've said to the youth, Alyse has said it to the youth: You may be the only Jesus someone ever sees or knows. You could be their only example. I'm not saying it's easy or fun but our lives should point to something or someone and that is God.

So that means if you're here today and you're employed, be the light of Jesus in that place. If you're in school, be the light of Jesus in that

school. If you're between Jobs, be the light of Jesus in the church, while speaking to your friends, if you're a mother or father here today. Be the light of Jesus to your family.

Lastly for your notes, **Submit to JESUS.**

21 For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. 22 He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. 23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

24 He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. 25 Once you were like sheep

who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

We submit to others in authority, our government, our employer, it brings honor to God but also we get to do this because he suffered for us first.

Ephesians 5:2 He loved us first. 2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us[a] and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

So how can we submit to him today?

We can continue to grow our relationship with him. Everyday is a new day but it's also a new choice. We have to choose to spend time with him.

If the worship team can come back up as we begin to close.

Church, Jesus doesn't want your attention once a Sunday for 1 and a half. He wants to spend time with you everyday.

We can read his word, If you don't like reading you don't have to do a whole book of the bible in a day, start with a devotional. Even Just start by doing the verse of the day.

We can Pray, Talking to God. Remember this is no magic words to say, no right way to do it. Just talk with God, tell him your struggles, your worries. Give him thanks for what he has done in your lives and the small things.

We can worship him. Instead of listening to your usual playlist, put on some worship music on your way to work or on the way to school. Something that will put your focus back on him.

Let me tell you, when I go into work with an attitude of gratitude, knowing I was just praising God on the way here, it Changes everything. Worship takes your eyes off your problem and puts your eyes back on God.

We always end our service with this question, ***what is the holy spirit saying to you today?***

If we can all stand for a moment together.

Maybe you're here today and The idea of Submission from the world's point of view has left a sour taste in your mouth. Maybe you've been struggling with lifting up your government authorities in prayer, Maybe you need a new perspective when you walk into work. Your boss has been giving you a hard time and you don't know if you can carry any longer. You're here

and you struggle with Submitting to Jesus on a daily basis, you are so busy that you feel like there's no time left at the end of the day.

Friend let me remind you that Jesus loves you and wants to walk alongside you today.

So with every head bowed just for a moment, if you're here today and you're struggling with submission in any way I'd like to pray for you, so if that's you raise your hand so I know who I'm praying for.

While every head bowed for just another moment, If you're here today or watching online and you don't have a relationship with Jesus at all. You live your life in your own way and maybe you're realizing how much you need him. Maybe you used to have a relationship and you walked away years ago. Let me Remind you no matter how far you go, once you turn around, Jesus is right there!! So If

thats you today would you just raise your hand for a moment.

If that's you right now just repeat after me , Lets pray

Father God, save me. Ive sinned against you. Set me free from my sin. Step into my situation. THank you for dying on the cross. Thank you for your love. Holy spirit fill me, guide me and use me. In the name of Jesus amen.