

Model Christians are Model Citizens

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Youth Ministries: Middle School & HS resume Wed evenings, TONIGHT.
- B. Slide2 Calvary Kids: is now available at *8am service* beginning THIS SUNDAY.
- C. Slide3 Calvary Kids: We still have some *opportunities to serve*, both Sun and Wed.

II. Slide4 Intro: Model Christians are Model Citizens

A. Peter appeals to Christ's submission to proper authorities, both to God the father and human institutions. In doing so, this will give us *an honorable reputation* and not hinder *the spreading of the gospel*.

1. This should always be done **when** it does not compromise **our faith or the principles of Jesus**, when obeying a country's laws and its leaders.
2. Peter encourages our submission to human authorities, **with a reminder that God's authority is over human authority**.

a) Example: Jn.19:11 (Jesus to Pilate) ***You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.***

B. Slide5a It was said of the popular 19th cent English author William Arnot, *His preaching is good. His writing is better. His living is best of all.*

C. Prayer: Lord we believe, **but** helps us to **do**. As we study Your word, may it study us.

D. Slide5b By faith he (Ab) made his home in the promised land **like a stranger** in a **foreign country**; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. **For** he was looking forward to **the city** with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Heb.11:9,10

1. **Abraham**, like so many OT saints, lived in this world *like a foreigner*.
2. **Noah**, **didn't fit** into this world of wickedness.
3. **Moses** too, lived the life of a **sojourner & wanderer**.

a) Moses even named his 1st son *Gershom*, which means *foreigner*. A constant reminder that he was *a stranger in the land*.

E. You & I live as Christians *away from home*.

1. We're **temporary** residents here & actually *eternal residents* of another land.

2. We live in the midst of a **pagan culture**, surrounded by **pagan people**, who embrace a **pagan philosophy**, a **pagan way of life**, & a **pagan attitude** toward believers. (Chuck Swindoll)

a) **Slide5c** But God has placed us here as **ambassadors** of a *different kingdom* & to lead others to that **better city** whose architect & builder is God.

F. Peter continues to lay out some **keys** to *living as Christians in a hostile world*.

1. **But** Peter didn't know of the day we're living in! **No**, he just wrote during the time of **Nero Caesar**, who was growing literally **insane** & very **anti-christian**.

a) Nero was known for his **tyranny**, **brutality**, & brief but horrific **persecution** of Christians in Rome.

2. Peter's counsel **doesn't sound strange** it sounds **radical**, **It doesn't sound natural** it sounds **supernatural**. Peter continues to explain how to be **model Christians** ... by being **Model Citizens**.

G. We are to show **respect & submission** to the following parties: **READ ALL**

III. **Slide6 OUR SUBMISSION TO GOD (13a-15)** *1st and foremost*

A. *Why should we be subject to every human institution?* For the Lord sake - Our relation to **The Lord** affects **everything**.

1. **So we need to ...** (3 things) **To obey Him** - because God ordained these powers. **To Imitate Him** - because when He was on earth He submitted to them. **To glorify Him** - This spirit of submission **cannot** fail to bring *glory to Him*.

B. (15) For this is **the will of God** (*i.e.* His purpose), that **by doing good** you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

1. This is the **proof** of our Christian profession, & the best **testimony** of our Master.

IV. Slide7 **OUR SUBMISSION TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES (13-16)**

A. (13) **Submit** - This attitude is *peculiarly & essentially* Christian.

1. It did not enter practically into the life of the **non-christian world**, at that time or before, the time of our Lord.
2. *Humility* & *submission* were thought **low & unworthy** of human nature.
3. *Hypotasso* - a *Gk military term* describing voluntary deference to the commands of another.

a) It implies a conscious, willing subjection to another person's authority.

(1) **The theme runs through Peter's letter:** all must submit to human governments, servants to employers, wives to husbands, & younger men to their elders.

b) In other words, every aspect of life is to be conducted w/**order**, *not disorder*.

B. (13b) **Every ordinance of man** - [police, fire, bldg code, federal/state/city, CC&R's, parents, church leadership]

1. **How far are we to submit?** Up to the point at which it becomes **sin** to obey
 - a) **Obey fire codes, it's wise and it safe.** By submitting to human institutions we're showing *we are not some Maverick group doing what we please.*
We are not Zealots (a political party in Jesus' day. anti-gov/Rome).

C. (16) **Freedom** is what Christ was/is all about :

1. Gal.5:1 **For freedom Christ has set us free.** Jn.8:32 **the truth will set you free.** Jn.8:36 **If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**
2. Gal.5:13 **For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**
 - a) Stott, *Christian freedom is freedom from sin, not freedom to sin!*
 - b) Christian **freedom** is **not** the freedom to disregard the needs of **others**.

c) It's a **freedom** to *love, serve, walk, & live* in the Spirit.

3. How do **you** define freedom? How does **God**?

a) We often see freedom as a *casting off of all restriction*. In contrast, God's Freedom is **purposeful, wise, & truly liberating**.

V. Slide8 **OUR SUBMISSION TO EVERYONE (17)**

A. Msg, *Treat **everyone** you meet with **dignity**. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.*

B. What can I do to affect my community? *These 4 together create a tough balancing act:*

C. (17a) **Humanitarian** – Honor everyone

1. Honor, value, esteem, respect. That's regardless of their faith, their godless lifestyles, or their attitudes toward Christians.

a) *Why everyone?* Each human has been created *in Gods image*.

D. (17b) **Christian** – Love the brotherhood/sisterhood unconditionally.

1. e.g. a band of brothers/sisters. Or, a band of *the Saviors siblings*.

2. God's family members should have *Christ-like love* towards each other.

E. (17c) **Divine** – Fear God. *Treat His will as Supreme.*

1. You'll never **respect** people, **till** you **reverence** God.

F. (17d) **National** – Honor the emperor/king/pres/highest official

1. Same *honor as above*. The honor due to all is especially to be given to those who God has placed in authority.

2. Honor the king who may in fact *hate us, hate his own people, & hate God*.

a) Os Guinness said, *The problem with Christians in America is not that Christians aren't *where they should be*; the problem is that they're not *what they should be, right where they are*.*

3. **And listen to this** our civil submission is **not** conditioned by our government's modeling **Christian virtue**, or reflecting **Christian morality**.

- a) We don't have, and never did have a **Christian government** here in the U.S. **We never did.** (nor any nation in the world). We could say it was based on Judeo-Christian values. **And** sometimes we're referred to as **a Christian nation.** If we mean by that, we used to be mostly Christians, OK, **but** not that our country has ever been officially *Christian* (If so what brand or branch?) (we hold to a freedom of *religion*, not *christianity*).
- b) Think about it, a percentage of Peter's **taxes** supported the construction of Roman **pagan temples** & funded their **unjust wars.**
- c) I could hear Peter asking Jesus, **shouldn't we refuse to pay taxes? Shouldn't we take up arms & resist our government? Oh yah, who is on the coin? Render to Caesar ...**
- G. What is our responsibility to *Human Government*, but to **recognize the power is ordained by God.** **Pay taxes.** **Pray for our leaders.**

VI. Slide9a **OUR SUBMISSION TO HARSH MASTERS (18-20)**

- A. (18) **Submit** to your masters ... even the **unjust/unreasonable/harsh** ones.
- B. **Master/slave** different then we picture it today. It wasn't *disgusting racism* of modern history. **Most chose to sell themselves into slavery to payoff a debt.**
1. Slavery in the ancient world was based more on **social, economic, & political issues**, **than** on race or ethnicity.
 2. **Their work** could be as **menial** as cleaning, **or** as **brutal** as mining.
 - a) *Other slaves* were well educated & held responsible positions in their households. **There were prized cooks, teachers, even physicians** (Luke).
 3. The treatment of slaves depended on the temperament of their masters or mistresses.
- C. **Slide9b Unjust** = $\sigma\kappa\omicron\lambda\iota\omicron\tilde{\iota}\varsigma$ (where we get scoliosis, curvature of the spine) **bent, crooked, severe, hard to deal with; dishonest, immoral.** [LKGNT, pg.754]
1. **Can anyone relate to this task master?**
 2. Not for the sake of just getting **stepped on, walked on, walked over.**

- a) What's your attitude at work? Talk about your boss to the other employees?
What does your boss think of you?

D. The bible taught *principles* which would gradually & effectually undermine slavery.

1. Principles of *love, submission, conscience*. It's maintaining *integrity*, so that God's *new way of living* shines forth clearly ... in most all work environments.

E. Slide9c Our submission then is not contingent on the attitude or behavior of *our superiors*.

1. Great example is Daniel who is shipped off to Babylon & had to *submit* to pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar, *as far as he could w/o* sinning against God

VII. Slide10 OUR SUBMISSION TO JESUS, OUR ROLE MODEL (21-25)

A. Christ our *example* when it comes to suffering.

B. The word *example* is used in 2 Maccabees 2:28 of the *outlines* of a sketch which the artist fills in w/details.¹

1. Jesus has laid out *life* to us *as* a giant *Paint by Numbers*, just fill in the blanks. [*Like*, here's the *boundaries*, *now* be creative *inside* of them]

C. *Example* was also used as *the model for handwriting* to be copied by the school boy²

1. Like *ABCDEF*: [written from the top of the line *to* the bottom of the line]
2. *My drafting teacher* in college was so meticulous when it came to block letters.

D. Jesus bore *my* sins, on *His* body, on *that* tree.

E. *By His wounds you have been healed* - often misunderstood vs. [people claim for *phys* healing]

1. Slide11 Peter's commentary on Is.53:5 is not physical healing *but spiritual*.
2. *But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes* (welts/whipping) *we are healed*. *All we like sheep have gone*

¹ Linguistic Key to the Greek N.T.: pg.755

² *ibid*

astray; we have turned - every one - to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. [sin, sin, peace, went astray, our own way]

- F. Rebecca Pippert, *Out of the Salt Shaker*, “*Jesus gives us permission to be **human**. Yet we struggle to believe that God intends for us to be **fully human** ... we’re afraid that being **made of flesh & blood** meets with divine disapproval. The fact that we love to laugh, take a walk w/a friend, sip tea, & read a good book for the sheer pleasure of it is probably regarded from on high, we fear, w/a cosmic frown. We forget that it was **God’s idea, not ours, to make us human**. How do we discover what it means to be authentically human? We look to **Jesus**.” [He is Irresistible]*
- G. Keywords: model christians, model citizens, submission, freedom.