



1 Peter 2:13-17

November 1, 2020

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

From the beginning of our lives, we have to learn to submit our selfish needs and wants for the good of safety and community.
One of our first words we learned to say was "no."
We don't like - not doing what we want to do.

But without rules there is no structure. Sports, music, workplace, family life, friendships, relationships.

God actually created us with a purpose in mind. And that purpose can only be realized when we ask our creator what to do and how to live.

Q. Of all the doctrines in the Bible which is the hardest one.

To understand – the trinity.

To do - obey, live out - submit

I. Submission

v13 Submit yourselves...

Greek: hupotasso - to arrange in orderly fashion. A group of soldiers with ranking submitting for common purpose.

"Voluntary cooperation" believers are not to be known as subversive troublemakers, but as model citizens.

Culture of the day.

Political corruption.

No democracy- no vote.

Autocracy- a system of government by one person with absolute power.

King Caesar- was defiled by the people and worshipped as a God. Once a year it was required that every citizen kneel at an altar, with a pinch of incense and say "Caesar is Lord". Then they would be given a certificate called a libelous, which certified they worshipped their Emperor. Then they were free to worship any god they wanted. Early Christians would not say Caesar is Lord. They said Caesar is not Lord. Jesus Christ is Lord.

Taxation was cruel and unjust.

When Jesus came, everyone thought he would free them from all this. He never did.

II. Why Submit.

v13 Submit yourselves for **the Lord's sake.**

ITS NOT ABOUT YOU.

III. Submit to Who.

v13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake

to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right

Submit to all authorities over you.

This letter was written during or just before 64 AD.

A fire broke out in Rome and destroyed a large portion of the city. Historians tell us that the citizens of Rome were sure Caesar Nero started it. He declared that the Christians started it and began persecuting them in mass. Covering them alive with pitch and burning them alive. They lit his gardens at night. He had a track built for racing chariots and burned Christians alive to light the track at night.

Is there a time when a Christian should not submit and obey the government?

Yes. When submitting to earthly authority makes you not submit to heavenly authority.

We obey until our obedience makes us disobey God.

Examples:

1. Pharaoh told the Hebrew midwives to kill all the baby boys born to Hebrew parents.

Exodus 1:17 "The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live."

2. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon - taking the Israelites captive made them eat a diet that was not kosher (Old Testament law). Daniel refused.

Daniel 1:8 "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way."

3. Later Nebuchadnezzar built an idol to himself and required everyone to bow down and worship the image.

Daniel 3:16-18 "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. **17** If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he

will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. **18** But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

4. King Darius declared that for 30 days no one could pray to any other deity except himself.

Daniel 6:10 "Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

IV. Purpose of Submission.

1 Peter 2:15-16

"For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. **Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.**

"For it is God's will" -- "Live as God's slaves"

John 14:15

"If you love me, keep my commands."

Romans 13:1

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

Honor & Respect. (Not the same)

Remember when this was written.

People see freedom and submission as opposites.

Peter must not have seen it that way.

Paul must not have seen it that way.

William Barkley -

"Christian freedom does not mean being free to do as you like, it means being free to do as you ought."

example: Great athletes choose to love freedoms to gain others.

Honor all people - every person deserves a certain amount of respect. Whether they hate you or your God. Or.....they are still made by God and loved by him.

They will know us by our love.

John 13:35

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus does not say the way you love **them**. He says the way you love **each other**. He is giving unbelievers permission to watch us.

“The authorities that exist have been established by God.”

Pray for your Leaders

I Timothy 2:1-3 “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

Hate cannot dwell where prayer and praise are practiced.