



## Trusting the Guide

1 Peter 2:13-17

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### I. Authority: Submit to All Authority

- a. The Bible's position on leadership is clear.
  - i. Leadership is important: God often appoints a leader – Noah, Moses, David, Joseph, Paul....
  - ii. Leadership is God-given. (Romans 13:1-2)
  - iii. Recognizing that leadership is God-given, it is important to honor leaders.
    1. PARENTS: first leaders are your parents (Ephesians 6:1)
    2. Babysitters, teachers, and coaches
    3. First job/boss
    4. Government leaders
- b. Sometimes it's difficult to follow our leaders:
  - i. When we agree with them and we feel loved, it can be easy.
  - ii. When we disagree and feel unloved/unsupported, it's challenging.
- c. This was a tough message for Peter's audience.
  - i. Peter's audience was "scattered and mistreated, imprisoned, and enslaved...rejected by family members, singled out by employers, and attacked by law-enforcement... living under an emperor who was growing increasingly insane and anti-Christian—Nero."<sup>1</sup>
  - ii. Peter's message was radical, but consistent with God's instruction.
- d. Submission reveals Who we are serving.
  - i. The passage begins with "for the Lord's sake."
    1. Our "submitting to human authority" ultimately reflects Who we are serving, reflects our trust, or lack of trust in God.
  - ii. Submission is a reflection of holiness (last week's message).
    1. Holiness begins with submitting and surrendering to God.
    2. Holiness is holistic in nature – it consumes all of us.
    3. Our lack of surrender confuses people and dilutes our message.

### II. How do we handle opposition?

- a. "Living an honorable life."
  - i. Honorable life – "doing good...good works." This is about doing the will of God. His will for us is that we would "be holy as He is holy."
  - ii. Jesus modeled this, "I am here to do the will of the Father" (John 6:38).

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<sup>1</sup> Swindoll, Charles R.. *Insights on James, 1 & 2 Peter* (p. 193).

- b. Everything comes back to holiness – reflecting Who God is.
  - i. Holiness is not an “event,” it is the result of a surrendered life.
  - ii. Holiness is powerful. It silences our enemies and invites others to follow.
- c. When facing opposition, our temptation is to use our enemies’ weapons.
  - i. This is a mistake (1 Peter 3:9).
  - ii. Hate only creates hate. BUT, “perfect love drives out fear” (1 John 4:18).
- d. Be careful with “righteous anger.”
  - i. We can justify our action by saying “My anger is righteous.”
    - 1. For anger to be “righteous,” it has to be aligned with God.
    - 2. All of God’s ACTIONS are anchored in His LOVE for us.
      - a. God’s ultimate goal is reconciliation.
      - b. If love is missing, so is righteousness.
    - 3. Pharisees often missed Jesus’ motivation and justified it as “righteous anger.”
      - a. Pharisees were angered by Jesus’ miracles (Mark 2 and 3).
      - b. Their “methods” superseded God’s “mandate” – love your neighbor.
  - ii. If we are not careful, our “righteous anger” can actually be about attacking the work of God instead of defending and advancing it.

**III. Peter’s Summary:** *“Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king” (verse 17).*

- a. Respect everyone – “Love you neighbor.”
- b. Love the family of believers – we need the Body of Christ!
- c. Fear God – He is the supreme authority.
- d. Respect the King – God has placed them there for “His purpose.”

**Reflection Questions:**

- Do I struggle with leadership? Why?
- Where do I struggle as it relates to leading an honorable life?
- How am I handling opposition? Where do I need help and direction?
- What is God speaking to me today? How will I respond?

<b>WAYS TO RESPOND</b>			
			
<b>COMMUNION</b>	<b>PRAY</b>	<b>JOURNAL</b>	<b>PRAYER WALLS</b>
Visit stations to partake of the bread and cup.	Pray with your neighbor or one of our prayer teams.	Write out a prayer or journal a reflection.	Write prayer requests on the prayer walls.