

1 Peter 2:13-20

Submit for the Lord's sake (Verses 13-15)

- We must ask ourselves: why do we submit to governments, governors, human institutions, or those in authority. At the heart of the matter of our submission is that we are doing it for the Lord's sake.
- Our submission and honoring of authority is pleasing to God and is the will of God. As a result of doing what is right to God you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- There is nothing that goes against the flesh more than to submit to authority. This strikes at the heart of fallen humanity, defiance toward authority. We don't like relinquishing authority or submitting to authorities. We have people of authority over us throughout our entire lives: parents, teachers, employers, police departments, state legislators, governors, and federal government ruling authorities
- There is no clearer example that we find that we don't like authority than our response to God. If we truly respected and submitted to the authority of God, then we would never sin. However, we sin and when we do, we are in effect saying that God's authority will not be over our authority to do what we want.
- Our decision to obey or disobey the governing authorities should never be rooted in our feelings, but our sincere desire to obey and honor God.
- All authority including government is established by God! Whether we agree with it or not does not change the fact that God has ordained and established governments and ruling authorities.
 - **Romans 11:36** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
- Mary and Joseph's civil obedience is how they ended up in Bethlehem where Jesus would be born as **Micah 5:2** had prophesied.
- God has all authority: Our universe is not constructed as a democracy or republic. It is a theocracy!
- All authority in the heavens and on earth including the governing systems and people are under the authority of God!
 - **Romans 13:1** Every ^[a]person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except ^[b]from God, and those which exist are established by God.
- Every single person that has ever been elected or appointed to a position of rule or authority is in that position for the same single reason, God has appointed them!
 - **Matthew 28:16-20** But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. ¹⁷When they saw Him, they worshiped *Him*; but some were doubtful. ¹⁸And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** ¹⁹^[a]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you ^[d]always, even to the end of the age."
 - **Proverbs 21:1** The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.
 - **Daniel 2: 21** "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and ^[ab]establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to ^[ac]men of understanding.
- When we submit to governing authorities we are doing so in obedience to God
- When we show civil obedience, we are looking past the specific individual or groups of individuals and looking to God. When we engage in civil obedience to the ruling authorities, we must remember they are established by God and they are for His purpose. If we disobey them, then we are disobeying God as He has established them and given them authority and has given us commands to be in subjection to those whom He has established in those positions and roles. It is beyond us and them with the final purpose and end in obedience to Christ. This all for the Lord's sake.

Is there ever a time when we are to disobey the governing authorities God has placed over us?

Yes! When those in authority over us command we do something God forbids or forbids us to do something God commands!

- **Acts 4** and **Acts 5**. The Sanhedrin threatened them and instructed them not to speak the name of Jesus. This was in direct opposition to God's commands, and they were obligated to show disobedience to show obedience to God.
- **Acts 5:28-29** saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and ^[a]yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

Our decision to obey or disobey the governing authorities should never be rooted in our feelings, but our sincere desire to obey and honor God.

Act as free men, bondslaves of God (verse 16)

We are to act as free men as God has set us free (**Gal 5:1**). Biblical submission doesn't mean that when one submits, they are losing freedom, but rather those who are truly free by God, will submit as God instructs as this pleases God. The freedom that Christ gives us is not to be used to harm or for rebellion, or a cover up to evil, but we are to use our freedom for the service of God and to help others. We are free, the slaves of God.

- o **Romans 6:16-18** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin ^[a]resulting in death, or of obedience ^[b]resulting in righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that ^[c]though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
- o The Greek word kurios means "Lord" of "master."
- o The English word for "church" is derived for the Greek word "kuriokos" which means "belonging the Lord or to the master."
- o We are not our own, we are bought with a price (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**)

Honor, love, fear (verse 17)

Peter instructs his audience to honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God as the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and honor the king.

- *Honor all people*-Give honor to whom honor is due (**Romans 12:10**) (**Romans 13:7**)
- *Love the brotherhood*-This word is used in **1 Peter 5:9** to refer to the brotherhood/ family which is all the believers who are the adopted children of God. We know we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren (**1 John 3:14**).
- *Fear God*-The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (**Proverbs 9:10**)(**Ecc 12:13-14**)
- *Honor the king*-They were to honor the king as this would honor and obey the King of Kings and His divine authority as God had placed every king in the time and place. **See Romans 13:1-7, Prov 21:1, Dan 2:21**

Submit to authority, suffering (18-20)

These verses focus on submission to authority and how to respond when treated unjustly. The servant is to be submissive to their master with respect, to the masters who are kind as well as to the ones who are unreasonable. We can not control the actions of others, but we can control our actions in response to others. In this specific example being used the servant is not to be disobedient to God's instruction in how they are to treat their master even if the master's actions are unreasonable. God has placed that master in authority over that servant and submission to their master is submission and obedience to God. The actions of others does not allow us to negate the Word of God. The servant's submission in these verses as well as our submission to those in authority are submission to God which pleases Him.

Those who submit out of fear or wrath of their master do not have the favor that God is speaking of in this context. Submitting out of fear of their master does not get to the heart and true meaning and reason for submission which is obedience to God and His Word. Submission and enduring with patience when being treated unjustly is found in the conscience toward God. Paul also discusses the idea of true authentic submission to authority that pleases God is grounded in the fact that the submission is not only because of fear of wrath, but for conscience's sake (Romans 13:5) because of the conscience which is set to please God and His instruction. This is all for the sake of the Lord.

Suffering is guaranteed in the life of a Christian: **Romans 8:17-18, Phil 1:29, 2 Timothy 3:12**. As Christians, we will suffer unjustly at times. Since we are born again and our citizenship is not of this world, we are to not conform and respond to things as the world would, including how to respond when treated unjustly and suffer as a result. As citizens of Heaven our marching orders are from our home. The world and those who are dead in sins are kind to people that are kind to them(**Luke 6:32-36**). When we treat people as they treat us, we are acting like those whose father is the devil. It goes against our flesh and fallen nature to not treat people as they treat us. That is why to act like God is commanding to act it takes something supernatural. This supernatural event that allows us to live like Christ and be obedient to Him even in situations of being treated unjustly, is the supernatural act of regeneration.

We are to respond in love and kindness with great patience and not compromising the Word of God. This response finds favor with God.

When we are treated unjustly, we are not to repay evil with evil, but are to give all vengeance to God who will always bring perfect vengeance and vindication to those who suffer unjustly (**Romans 12:17-21**)(**Luke 18:1-8**). No suffering is without purpose!

In the coming up verses, Peter will explain how Christ is our example on how to act when being treated unjustly.