

Do We Really Have To? **1 Peter 2:13-17**

Does the 5th commandment about honoring our father & mother also really apply to all those who are in authority over us? Presidents, governors, etc?

Are those in authority really there b/c God has put them there? *H.C. #104*

If that is true, then as followers of Jesus, what responsibility do we have?

1 Peter 2:13-17, Romans 13:1-7, Matthew 22:17-22

What did you notice about all three of these Biblical perspectives?

What did all three of them not say about who, when or where this applies?

Now this does not mean it's easy as Christians today to honor those in leadership/authority over us, but why would we think it should be?

The title of this sermon series is *"Following Jesus in a Hostile World!"*

And did you notice the sermon background side? What should we expect?

But voluntary submission is not a suggestion, it's a command as citizens of God's Kingdom! If we're to be followers of Jesus, this is the way of the cross!

- **The command for submission** Verse 2:13a – *"Be subject..."*
Jesus Himself subjected Himself under human authorities, even when those authorities falsely accused Him & crucified Him, yet He... **Vs. 22-23**
He who was/is the supreme authority, the One who will judge the whole world, had to learn obedience as well & had to willingly submit Himself under the authorities of man! It's God command for humanity!
- **The motive for submission** Verse 2:13b – *"for the Lord's sake"*
Believers obey & honor earthly authorities in order to obey & honor God's sovereignty! Civil government is merely an instrument in God's hand.
Even if individual rulers are godless & evil, they still serve God's purpose
How then ought followers of Jesus to respond to dishonorable and/or oppressive earthly authorities today? What is/not acceptable?
- **The extent of submission** Vs. 2:13c-14 – *"to every institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him..."*

To parents, teachers, coaches, bosses, pastors, elders, police officers, etc. All in positions of authority over us are included in this command!

It was especially difficult for believers in Peter's day to obey this command because of those in positions of authority - Rome, Nero, Jewish Sanhedrin.

- **The reason for submission** Vs. 2:15 – *"For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people."*

When we live out this command, our right actions stop the mouths of those critical to the gospel & Christianity!

We may be falsely accused! We may be ourselves called fools for our beliefs & actions, but our conduct will speak volumes about what is true!

This is why the Apostle Paul declares these words in **Titus 3:1-2**.

- **The attitude of submission** Vs. 2:16 – *"Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God."*

Our freedom in Christ does not give us license to do what is wrong, it enables us to do what is right! **Philippians 4:13**

Our freedom leads us to submit ourselves willingly under the authority of God & be servants of Christ in this world! What should this look like?

- **The application of submission** Verse 2:17 – *"Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor."*

Honor everyone – every person was/is created in the image of God & therefore is due some degree of respect!

Love the brotherhood (all believers) – Jesus' command - **John 13:34-35**
How we democrat/republican believers love one another will either reveal that we are true disciples of Jesus, or those who oppose Him!

Fear God – Are we willing to trust God in all circumstances, no matter how difficult they may be, & no matter how wrong things may appear?

Honor the emperor (president) – *"God's authority stands behind every government, right or wrong, but it also stands 'over' every human authority, not allowing evil to go unchecked forever."* – *The Quest Study Bible*

When we believers practice voluntary submission, we give credibility to our faith! And when we honor our earthly authorities, we honor God!

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