

**Series "Living God Gives A Living Hope"**  
**"Christian Citizenship"**  
**1 Peter 2:13-17**  
**Study-10**

This was a hot topic in the early church. **Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2**

**1 Peter 1:16-17**

**1 Peter 2:11-3:12 – God's Grace and Submission.**

**Thought Of The Passage:** "As Christian Citizens, We Live Law-Abiding Honoring Lives That Silence Our Critics And Bring Glory To God."

**1. Verses 13-15 – The Call To Submit**

**2. Verses 15-16 – The Call To Serve**

**3. Verse 17 – The Call To Honor**

**1. Verses 13-15 – The Call To Submit:**

1 Peter 2:13 – "Submit yourselves" – The Context is 1 Peter 2:11-12.  
These verses are the hinges of this section.

"Submit" is a Greek military term – "to line up, to get in order, to arrange; to rank beneath or under." In non-military use, it is "a voluntary attitude of giving in." Here, the verb is an aorist imperative which means Peter is saying, "Settle it once for all that this is to be the course of action for you to follow."

"Submit" – Subjected; Peter uses it here and 5X more times in this letter, 1 Peter 2:18; 1 Peter 3:1; 1 Peter 3:5; 1 Peter 3:22; 1 Peter 5:5.

The Motive For Submission: "for the Lord's sake" – 1) We should follow (Imitate) Jesus' example; 2) In order to honor the Lord, not bring a reproach on the Lord!

The Degree Of Our Submission: "to every human institution," – "to every authority instituted among men, every human creation, or every fundamental social institution."

Who Should We Submit To? – "to every human institution,"

God Is The Source Of Government: Romans 13:1-2.

John 19:11; Luke 20:25

“whether to a king as the one in authority,” – We could apply submission to the “king” as obeying federal laws.

Daniel 2:21

1 Peter 2:14 – “or to governors” – and “governors” cover state and local laws.

Purpose Of Government Is The Restraint Of Evil: Romans 13:3 – Government must maintain law and order!

Purpose Of Government Is Promotion Of Public Good: 1 Peter 2:14 – “and the praise of those who do right.” – Romans 13:3-4

Purpose Of Government Is Punishment: 1 Peter 2:14 – “as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers” – Note Punishment Not Rehabilitation.

“for it does not bear the sword for nothing;” – The Romans used crucifixion for outsiders, the worst, but the sword was for their own.

1 Peter 2:15

The Reason For Submission: “For such is the will of God”

Are There Exceptions To Our Submission? Yes, When We Are Commanded To Sin. Submit up to the point at which it becomes sin to submit.

Example OT: Daniel 6:10 – There were consequences for going against governmental authorities. Daniel was thrown in the lions’ den!

Example NT: Acts 4:19-20; Acts 5:29 – There were consequences for going against governmental authorities. Peter and John were imprisoned and then beaten.

If the government oversteps in an area that is clearly against what God says, the first thing to do is to appeal, if possible.

We Are Commanded To Pray For The Government: 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

We Support The Government With Taxes: Romans 13:7 – Jesus paid taxes, Matthew 17:24-27; 22:21.

We are to Serve Our Government: Titus 3:1.

We are to Support Our Government By Evangelizing: Matthew 5:14.

## **2. Verses 15-16 – The Call To Serve:**

1 Peter 2:15 – “For such is the will of God” – The phrase “Will of God” is used 434X in Scripture.

“For such is the will of God that by doing right” – 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Jeremiah 29:7

God’s Will Through Submission Is To Silence The Critics: “you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.” – The word “silence” – literally means, “to muzzle or to gag,” Mark 4:39.

“ignorance of foolish men.” – These foolish men are unbelievers that choose to remain in ignorance. “They are arrogant hostile, senseless unbelievers against the truth.”

Daniel 6:4

Paul challenges the Christians living on the immoral island of Crete, Titus 3:1-2.

Romans 13:5-7

1 Peter 2:16

The Attitude Of Submission: “Act as free men,” – Galatians 5:13-14.

We’re to use our liberty to demonstrate virtue, not to justify our vices, Romans 6:18.

“bondslaves” – is “one who was bound to another in servitude, completely committed to do the will of his master and not his own.”

## **3. Verse 17 – The Call To Honor:**

1 Peter 2:17 – Peter closes with 4 Commands showing what submission looks like:

1. “Honor all people,” – to “honor” someone is to “fix a high value by esteeming or prizing them.” The word “honor” in the Old Testament literally means a “heavy weight.” To honor someone is to consider them to be weighty or heavy.

“dishonor” means to treat someone as if they were “light or insignificant.”

Leviticus 19:32

2. “love the brotherhood,” – “love,” the word “Agape” – “a divine love, experienced only through a new nature, an unconditional love – Not based upon performance, true worth, a love that is a deliberate choice.

The word “brotherhood” only used here and 1 Peter 5:9, means “those born from the same womb;” These are believers, family of God!

Galatians 6:10; John 13:35

3. “fear God,” – “fear” – is “to revere, keep on revering,” Psalm 128:1-6.

Hebrews 12:28-29

Note The Order! Proverbs 24:21 – “My son, fear the LORD and the king;”

4. “honor the king.” – “to revere, keep on revering the king;” (Full Circle) Romans 13:7.

### **Application:**

1. The Motive For Submission Is For The Lord's Sake. 1) We should follow (Imitate) Jesus' example. 2) In order to honor the Lord, not bring a reproach on the Lord.
2. God Is The Giver Of All Authority. When We Submit To Authority, We Are Submitting To God. When We Disobey Authority, We Are Disobeying God.
3. God's Will Through Submission Is To Silence The Critics: “You May Silence The Ignorance Of Foolish Men.”
4. Believers Are Not Called To Be Volunteers But Are Called To Be Bondservants Of God.