

## Submission to Government 1 Peter 2:13-17 Part 1

### I. Introduction

#### A. *The way you live*

1. How often do you consider that the way you live affects unsaved people in this world?
2. Remember saying: We're all examples
  - a) Good example or
  - b) Bad example
3. Begun SUBMISSION
  - a) Not only COMMANDED by God
  - b) ALSO – HAS A PURPOSE
  - c) God uses to LEAD PEOPLE to HIM
4. Today – NEXT passage on SUBMISSION will SHOW US
  - a) HOW TO LIVE UNDER HUMAN INSTITUTIONS
  - b) HOW our behavior either
    - (1) SILENCES the CRITICS of Christianity OR
    - (2) FUELS the fires of the CRITICS
  - c) HOW to BEGIN to BALANCE our ALIEN and STRANGER status with RESPONSIBILITY in this WORLD.

#### B. *TURN TO Passage to read... 1 Peter 2:9-17*

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation. 13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. 16 *Act* as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God. 17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

#### C. Review

1. Previously: Studied HOW to have a RIGHT RELATIONSHIP with those WITHOUT GOD and HOW God USES YOUR BEHAVIOR – MANNER of LIFE – LIFESTYLE, to LEAD PEOPLE to HIM for SALVATION. Life-Style Evangelism!
  - a) Remember your Position before God (v.9a)
  - b) Remember your Position's Purpose in this world (v.9b)

- c) Remember your Past Position before God (v.9c-10)
- d) Remember Your Position in this world
- e) Remember Your Performance in this world
- f) Remember Your Performance's purpose in this world!

## 2. Remembering!

- a) REMEMBER YOUR POSITION before God(v.9a)

**9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession,**

- (1) you are =JUST what you ARE – YOUR POSITION

- (2) a chosen race,

- (a) v.9 calls us a "race," "nation," and "a people" – ALL GROUP TERMS! = CHURCH

- (3) a royal priesthood, = 1 Peter 2:6

- (a) Jesus Christ BROUGHT together the OFFICES of KING and PRIEST FOR US TO BE BOTH!

- (b) SO – BECAUSE HE IS KING and PRIEST - we are ROYAL PRIESTS!

- (c) We have both because WE ARE IN Jesus Christ!

- (4) a holy nation, = 1 Peter 1:15-16

- (a) A people set apart for God –

- (i) Holy in position

- (ii) to be holy in practice as He is Holy!

- (5) a people for God's own possession

- (a) "Possession" = acquired, purchased for a price.

- (b) We are a people whom God has purchased!

**1 Peter 1:18-19** knowing that you were not redeemed ...but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

- (i) Purchased by God through the blood of His Son.

- (6) Transition

- (a) REMEMBER YOUR POSITION: ***you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession!***

- b) REMEMBER YOUR Position's PURPOSE / PROCLAMATION (v.9b)

***v.9b...so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you***

- (1) so that = PURPOSE for the POSITION YOU HAVE!

- (2) you may proclaim = ADVERTISE!

- (a) ADVERTISE / PROCLAIM to NON-CHRISTIANS what GOD is DOING in YOUR LIFE!

- (b) Do you ADVERTISE what GOD HAS DONE in your LIFE to the unsaved world???

(3) [the excellencies of Him](#)

- (a) PLURAL – not just the SAVING ASPECTS of GOD!
- (b) JUST ADVERTISE WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN YOUR LIFE!
- (c) [“excellencies”](#)
  - (i) Means “Excellent attributes seen in the acts by which God displays His glory”
- (d) NOT the GOSPEL – JUST what GOD IS DOING FOR YOU / TO YOU!
- (e) ...IN A WAY that SHOWS HIS ATTRIBUTES (His GLORY!)

c) **REMEMBER YOUR PAST position before God (v.9c-10)**

(v.9c-10) out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- (1) Peter REMINDS his audience how they came to be where they are today!
- (2) [Called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;](#)
  - (a) Common description for what happens at salvation!
  - (b) DARKNESS = Your UNSAVED STATE of SIN
  - (c) GOD HAS TO BRING YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT – you cannot do it yourself
- (3) [10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.](#)
  - (a) V.10 – from Hosea and seen through Paul (Romans 9:15; 23-26)
  - (b) REFERS TO GENTILES AND THE CHURCH!
  - (c) God –
    - (i) By His OWN GOOD PLEASURE
    - (ii) According to His PERFECT PLAN
    - (iii) CHOSE to make the GENTILES (US) His POSSESSION – as His People

d) **Remember your position in this world**

V.11 [Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers...](#)

(1) [Beloved](#) – You are God's BUT

(2) [aliens and strangers...](#)

- (a) Now begins sections of particular designation!
- (b) ALL about SUBMISSION to GOD THROUGH various ROLES!
  - (i) v.11-12 ALIENS and STRANGERS
  - (ii) v.13-17 AS CITIZENS
  - (iii) v.18-25 SERVANTS/WORK
  - (iv) 3:1-7 HOME (wives then husbands)
  - (v) 3:8-12 OVERALL
- (c) [Aliens and Strangers](#) = 1Peter 1:1

(d) Aliens = “alongside the house”

(e) Strangers

- (i) “person making a brief stay – sojourner going through – passing through!”
  - (ii) Prefer “Sojourner” to “stranger” – SAYS MORE ABOUT TRAVELING in a DIFFERENT PLACE THAN HOME!
- (f) Together -Emphasizes that DON’T BELONG HERE!
- (i) we LIVE ALONGSIDE AND are PASSING THROUGH.
  - (ii) This IS NOT OUR HOME!
    - (a) *Our citizenship is IN HEAVEN (Phil 3:20)*
    - (b) *Our life is HID WITH CHRIST – IN HEAVEN (Col 3:3)*
    - (c) *Peter defines our HOME as an INHERITANCE!*
      - (i) Undefined, unfading, imperishable
      - (ii) NO WAY TO DEFINE IN POSITIVE TERMS!
      - (iii) Its INCOMPREHENSIBLE!

e) Remember your Performance in this world (v.11b-12a)

11 I urge you...to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles,

(1) Two sides! WRONG Behavior and RIGHT Behavior! = Put OFF and Put ON

(2) Don’t have the WRONG BEHAVIOR...

(a) I urge You to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul

- (i) to abstain=STAY AWAY!
  - (ii) from fleshly lusts = Desires of your fallen nature!
    - (i) Souls are saved = NEW
    - (ii) BUT are STUCK in UNREDEEMED FLESH!
    - (iii) Fleshly LUSTS = STRONG CRAVINGS FOR SIN!
    - (iv) LUST = over desire, controlling desire
    - (v) = Gal 5:19 stuff! = Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,
- (b) which wage war against the soul
- (i) “which” = = which BY THEIR VERY NATURE WAGE WAR AGAINST THE SOUL!
  - (ii) It is the NATURE of your UNREDEEMED FLESH to WAGE WAR against YOUR SOUL!
  - (iii) Paul: Romans 7:18; 23
    - (a) *18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh;*

*(b) 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war ...*

- (iv) “wage war” = military CAMPAIGN –
  - (a) *their NATURE is to CONTINUALLY battle the soul!*
- (v) SO PUT off FLESHLY LUSTS!
- (vi) Now the opposite side – the PUT ON side:

**(3) Have the RIGHT BEHAVIOR**

**12a Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles,**

- (a) Literally: Amongst people CONTINUALLY HAVE GOOD Manner of Life!
  - (b) “Behavior” = your MANNER of LIFE
    - (i) All encompassing term for how you live
  - (c) “Excellent” = Rich word = HIGHEST GOODNESS! = Moral goodness
  - (d) “Among the Gentiles” = unsaved world!
    - (i) The GOODNESS of your life must be VISIBLE to the unsaved world!
- (4) How does Peter tell you to deal with this?
  - (a) WRONG BEHAVIOR: ABSTAIN – Don’t DO IT!
  - (b) RIGHT BEHAVIOR – OBEY GOD!
  - (c) Nothing Vague here!

**f) Remember Your Performance’s Purpose**

*V.12B ...so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

- (1) One Author’s Paraphrase: In the Very thing they slander you, you will prove them wrong and lead them to the gospel.
- (2) so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers,
  - (a) SO THAT = PURPOSE for PUTTING OFF fleshly lust and KEEPING a good manner of life!
  - (b) “SLANDER you” = Speak evil against you
  - (c) “as EVILDOERS” = person who does evil WHO SHOULD BE PUNISHED = CRIMINAL
    - (i) Actually a Term of ABUSE for Christians
    - (ii) Will see in v.13-14
- (3) they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them,
  - (a) “observe” = CONTINUALLY observe OVER TIME
    - (i) CONSISTENT with BEHAVIOR = MANNER OF LIFE!
- (4) glorify God in the day of visitation.
  - (a) “day of visitation” = VISIT for SALVATION

(b) = day God has gospel presented to them.

### 3. REVIEW Conclusion Peter –

- (1) About to ENTER the MEAT of this LETTER
  - (2) About to DETAIL the WITNESSING Responsibilities of Christians
    - (a) In Society
    - (b) At work
    - (c) In the Home
  - (3) Says – THERE’S a FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER as you GO INTO THE WORLD WITH THIS TEACHING!
- b) Start with insatiable thirst for WORD – fill yourself with the book! (2:1-3)
  - c) Maintain a STRONG relationship with Jesus Christ through CONTINUOUSLY DRAWING NEAR TO HIM (2:4-8)
  - d) THAT WILL LEAD YOU TO BEING PREPARED TO
    - (a) WITNESS
    - (b) TO HAVE A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE WITHOUT GOD
  - e) THEN –
    - (1) PROCLAIM the EXCELLENCIES of GOD
    - (2) while keeping your BEHAVIOR EXCELLENT –
    - (3) INSPITE of what the World does to you!
    - (4) GOD WILL USE YOU to BRING PEOPLE to SAVING FAITH!

***D. Proposition: Study the 5 part teaching on Christian Submission to Government SO THAT you can be used by God to silence the ignorance of foolish men!***

## **II. The Requirement: You must submit to every human institution**

13 Submit yourselves ~~for the Lord's sake~~ (next week) to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,  
14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

### A. Submit yourselves

#### 1. “Submit yourselves”

- a) Military term = “to arrange under in military fashion under a military leader.”
- b) No transition from v.12 –
  - (1) just blunt command, “SUBMIT YOURSELVES”
  - (2) In the emphatic position (first in phrase)
  - (3) AND – this verb DOMINATES/CONTROLS everything down through 3:7!
  - (4) SETS a COMMAND CONTEXT through 3:7
- c) Verb:
  - (1) Command
    - (a) Remember: commands are will-to-will – NOT intellect-to-intellect.

- (b) Meant to cause immediate forced action.
- (c) FYI: Greeks never used commands to those in authority over them  
(and we rarely do ourselves)
- (d) BUT Scripture is full of Commands because God is in authority over us!

(2) Tense (Aorist)

- (a) Whole action without reference to DURATION, REPETITION, etc.
- (b) Tense calls for IMMEDIATE ACTION – “IMMEDIATELY ADOPT an ATTITUDE/ ACTIONS of obedience to human institutions.”

(3) Voice (Middle)

- (a) You are to READILY ALLOW Gov’t to be your authority
- (b) = Submit WILLINGLY in attitude and action.

d) = IMMEDIATELY, READILY, PUT YOURSELF under the authority of human institutions – ATTITUDE / ACTION.

B. to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

1. to every human institution,

- a) “every” = ALL
- b) “human institution”
  - (1) NOT focusing on individual humans
  - (2) NOT focusing on institutions that are humanly developed (e.g. businesses)
  - (3) = Institutions ordained by God ON THE HUMAN LEVEL.
  - (4) = Gov’t
    - (a) Includes Federal, state, local
    - (b) Includes departments of Gov’t / controlled by Gov’t
      - (i) = Schools!
      - (ii) = Agencies,...
  - (5) We summarize as “Government”

2. whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him

- a) Peter gives two levels of government.
- b) “king” = “Possessor of the highest power”
- c) =Example to these people using the current form of government.
  - (1) “whether” puts “king” subordinate to “human institution
  - (2) NO Article=one having characteristics/responsibility of a king = OFFICE
  - (3) “as the one in authority” = I MEAN THE OFFICE and NOT a PARTICULAR PERSON. Literally “as superior”
- d) or to governors as sent by him
  - (1) = governors, proconsuls, procurators (as in Judea)
  - (2) “him” = king, NOT GOD!

- (3) Usual Greek title for the local Administrative head in a province.
- (4) Here = example of one delegated authority under the main authority
- (5) = SUBMIT to ALL

- (a) human institutions
- (b) LEVELS of human institutions.

- e) See the two "AS"s in the verses
- f) "king AS the one in authority"
- g) "governor AS sent by him"
- h) Both are CAUSAL
- i) = Submit BECAUSE they are rulers.

3. sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

- a) Basic FUNCTION of gov't as ORDAINED by GOD
- b) Government is a GOD-GIVEN MERCY for the PROTECTION OF PEOPLE.
- c) 2 Sides of the same coin

(1) the punishment of evildoers

- (a) "punishment" = fascinating word
- (b) root is "justice"
- (c) Verb is used very broadly =aspects of justice / punishment, though usually divine,
  - (i) Hebrews understood that God alone had the right of ultimate vengeance.
  - (ii) OT understanding of justice= obligation to obey the revealed will of God (Mosaic Law)
  - (iii) Non-enforcement of Law would mean the degradation of society and the ultimate judgment of God. (Habakkuk and Chaldeans!).
- (d) The NT uses "justice"
  - (i) MOST often regarding the vengeance / justice of God
  - (ii) Point out it is WRONG for Individuals to take vengeance/justice (e.g. Moses Acts7)
  - (iii) RIGHT for Government to PUNISH evil doers (here/ Rom 13).
  - (iv) Romans 13 tells us this authority is GIVEN BY GOD.
- (e) THEREFORE – all PUNISHMENT is ULTIMATELY from God.
- (f) "EVILDOERS" = does evil WHO SHOULD BE PUNISHED = CRIMINAL
  - (i) saw in 2:12 / see in again 1Peter 4:15
- (g) BOTTOM LINE – God has given Government the AUTHORITY to PUNISH those who DISOBEY it.
- (h) REMEMBER – IF gov't FORCES a choice between obeying IT OR obeying GOD – we obey God . May Suffer the consequences!

(2) the praise of those who do right

- (a) "praise" = give someone recognition, praise, official approval, commendation, etc."

(b) God has also ordained government to praise those who “do right”

(c) “do right” = “to be beneficent, acting for another’s benefit”

- (i) ACTIVE term—you seek to DO GOOD to another
- (ii) More than just compliance
- (iii) Actual deeds of public benefit.
- (iv) USED 5 TIMES in this EPISTLE – MAJOR THEME!  
  - (a) *TIES WITH BEHAVIOR / MANNER of LIFE*
  - (b) *HUGE EMPHASIS on LIVING RIGHT!*

**C. Today– STOP HERE! Next week:**

1. The Reason: You must submit for the Lord’s sake.

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake

2. The Result: You must submit to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

3. The Recognition: You must submit as free servants of God.

16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond slaves of God.

4. The (W)Rap-up (The Requirement Summarized).

17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

<b>III. Conclusion</b>
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**A. Tonight, Peter has given us an additional requirement while in this life**

1. Complements ALIENS and STRANGERS

**B. As ALIENS and STRANGERS we are to**

- 1. Live a GODLY LIFE – UNEARTHLY, SUPERNATURAL
- 2. NOT ENTANGLED in the SYSTEM - Col 3:1-4 STUFF!

**C. BUT – We must excel at meeting the demands of proper worldly citizenship**

**D. CANNOT become TOO alien, INDIFFERENT to world**

**E. CANNOT ISOLATE ourselves -IN THE world but NOT OF the WORLD**

**F. We are boats in the water but don’t let water in the boat!**

**G. We are ABOVE the world and its system but must live WITHIN the world system.**

**H. And – our alien-ness is seen!**

- 1. We abstain from fleshly lusts
- 2. We live God-honor, God-obeying lives that RUN counter to the NATURAL, FALLEN ways of mankind.
- 3. AND—so we are persecuted – called EVILDOERS, SLANDERED.