

Christian Submission to Government
1 Peter 2:13-17 (Part 2)

I. Introduction

A. 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!

B. TURN TO Passage to read... 1 Peter 2:13-17

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.

II. (1) The Requirement: You must submit to every human institution

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.

A. Submit yourselves

1. Military term = "to arrange under in military fashion under a military leader."
 2. Verb
 - a) DOMINATES/CONTROLS everything down through 3:7!
 - b) SETS a COMMAND CONTEXT through 3:7
 - c) Calls for IMMEDIATE ACTION – "IMMEDIATELY ADOPT an ATTITUDE/ ACTIONS of obedience to human institutions."
 - d) You are to READILY ALLOW Gov't to be your authority
 - (1) = Submit WILLINGLY in attitude and action.
 3. = 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) = Institutions ordained by God ON THE HUMAN LEVEL.
 - (2) = Gov't
 - (a) Includes Federal, state, local
 - (b) Includes departments of Gov't / controlled by Gov't
 - (i) = Schools!
 - (ii) = Agencies,...
 - (3) We summarize as "Government"
 2. whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him
 - a) =Example to these people using the current form of government.

b) Peter gives two levels of government.

c) = SUBMIT to ALL

(1) human institutions

(2) LEVELS of human institutions.

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

a) Basic FUNCTION of government 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” = root is “justice”

(b) The NT uses “justice”

(i) MOST often regarding the vengeance / justice of God

(ii) It is RIGHT for Government to PUNISH evil doers.

(c) “EVILDOERS” = person who does evil WHO SHOULD BE PUNISHED = CRIMINAL

(d) BOTTOM LINE – God has given Government the AUTHORITY to PUNISH those who DISOBEY it.

(2) the praise of those who do right

(a) “praise” = give someone recognition, praise, official approval, commendation, etc.”

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

(i) ESPECIALLY goodness in relation to GOD who is PERFECTLY GOOD.

(ii) Term used 4X in 1 Peter as a verb and once as a noun – IMPORTANT THEME

(iii) Engaged in actual God-honoring deeds of public benefit.

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

C. Now turn to Romans 13 -MUST know/understand Romans 13:1-4 as a COMPLEMENT to 1 Peter 2:13-17.

1. NOTE: Government is a God-given mercy.

a) V.1 – GOD-GIVEN.

b) V.2-4 Gov’t’s PRIMARY task – PROTECT its people from EVIL.

1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

2. v.2 God puts gov’t in place to control sinful men.

2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

a) If you resist authority – you are resisting God.

3. v.3 God gives gov't PERSUASION
3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;
 - a) Gov't exists to make sinful people AFRAID.
4. v.4 God made gov't minister of authority for good
4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.
 - a) See the phrase: "for it does not bear the sword for nothing;"
 - b) Gov't is not SYMBOLIC – IT HAS REAL GOD-GIVEN POWER.
 - c) "Sword" MEANS the POWER OF DEATH.
5. Gov't can RIGHTFULLY PUNISH because of the power of the SWORD given by God.

D. Transition

1. The Requirement: You must submit to every human institution

III. (2) The Reason: You must submit for the Lord's sake.

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake

A. = "because of the Lord's will"

B. = OBLIGATION to the Lord

C. He has rightful, sovereign, authority over Christian behavior!

D. Picture: Christ's submission to the state!

1 Peter 2:21-25 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ...

E. Notice how Christ made submission work!

but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ...

1. I.e. We OBEY and LET GOD DETERMINE THE RESULT

F. Same as for other roles!

1. Workers / Slaves

- a) Colossians 3:23-24 (Ephesians 6:7-8)

23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

2. Wives

- a) Colossians 3:18

18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

- b) Ephesians 5:22..., as to the Lord.

3. Children

a) Ephesians 6:1-3 (Col 3:20)

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right...3 so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

G. BOTTOM LINE of ALL SUBMISSION – YOU ARE REALLY SUBMITTING TO GOD!**H. Application – YOU do NOT accomplish in society ANYTHING for GOD when you violate GOD's standard of submissive behavior**

1. Jesus Christ - never disobeyed or even attacked gov't – even during an unrighteous trial!
2. Rom 13:5 be in subjection because of conscience' sake.
 - a) I.e. Because it is RIGHT!
 - b) It Keeps a clear conscience before Him

2 Corinthians 1:12 For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.
 - c) Our conscience can testify that we did what was right by God!
3. Grace: Russian Christians
 - a) If ever they were arrested it was only to be for proclaiming the gospel – nothing less.

I. From World's perspective

1. Goodness defined by how you respond to its laws
2. Therefore – we demonstrate EVEN WORLDLY GOOD – which they can understand, and praise.
3. God USES THAT to lead them to UNDERSTAND a higher level of Goodness and righteousness – HIS!

J. Transition

1. The Requirement: You must submit to every human institution
2. The Reason: You must submit for the Lord's sake=His will

IV. (3) 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.

A. “For such” – Ties back to v.14, and to v.12!

B. v.14-15 translation: “Submit...because of the Lord...because in the function of gov't AND your doing right, the will of God is that it will silence the foolish verbal attacks of ignorant men.”

C. “is the will of God”

1. BOTH THROUGH
 - a) The function of Government
 - b) AND your doing right

2. God will work His will.
3. Standard word for God's will in Scripture.
 - a) "will" = purpose or plan
 - b) =used objectively referring to that which is willed and God expecting a result
 - c) Peter speaks directly of the "will of God" SIX times in this epistle!
 - (1) He's all about your manner of life being according to the WILL OF GOD!

D. "that by doing right"

1. Ties back to v.14 "those who do right"
2. BUT here focuses on fact that it is GOD-CENTERED "DOING RIGHT"
3. ALSO – carries idea of
 - a) PROACTIVE pursuit of doing good!
 - b) CHARACTERISTIC of a Christian to "do right"
4. ALL in PUBLIC view as IGNORANT MEN will see your "doing right" (and be silenced).
5. NOTICE: NOT SELF-DEFENSE!
 - a) JUST DO RIGHT!
 - b) God's best defense to vicious verbal attack is DOING RIGHT, not FIGHTING BACK or even DEFENDING.

E. "you may silence the ignorance of foolish men."

1. "you may silence"
 - a) Rare verb = to muzzle, to put to silence, stopping the mouth so that he is unable to reply
 - b) Used in Scripture in the phrase "don't muzzle the ox while he is threshing" (1Tim 5:18)
 - c) = continually keep muzzling!
 - d) Defines what "will of God" is in the beginning of the verse (because in apposition).
 - e) 1 Peter 3:16 says it this way...

16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

(1) "Shame" is an intensified form of Shame = extreme shame.
2. ALL THE ACTION in this VERSE –
 - (1) DOING GOOD
 - (2) SILENCING
 - b) ALL CONTINUAL, constant = Ongoing interaction implied
 - c) Continual doing good RESULTS IN continual muzzling
 - d) Good MUST BE CONTINUAL because the ANTAGONISM WILL BE CONTINUAL
 - e) BTW- this takes us all the way back to V.12 -Context has not gone BEYOND mere VERBAL attacks.

3. “the ignorance of foolish men”

a) “ignorance”

(1) = willful, deliberate ignorance of the truth of God!

(2) = WILLFUL HOSTILITY!

b) “of foolish men”

(1) foolish = lack of reason, common sense, lack of perception of the reality of things natural and spiritual, lacking mental sanity and sobriety!

(2) MUCH MORE DEROGATORY than “ignorance”!

(3) =OBSTINATE SINNER

(4) One who has chosen a path renders him absolutely unreasonable and reckless, proud and obstinate in his opposition to the truth.

c) Total = WILLFUL HOSTILITY CHARACTERISTIC of someone OBSTINATELY AND AGGRESSIVELY in OPPOSITION to the truth of God!

(1) Worst of the worst attackers of Christians!

F. VERY graphic PICTURE of what is happening here in 2:12-15

1. WHILE you keep your behavior EXCELLENT – DOING RIGHT towards GOD and Government
2. GOD will be
 - a) Drawing men to salvation (day of visitation glorifying God)
 - b) SILENCING CRITICS
 - c) AND gov’t may praise you for the good you do!

G. Practical Application

H. Transition

1. The Requirement: You must submit to every human institution
2. The Reason: You must submit for the Lord’s sake.
3. The Result: You must submit to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

V. (4) 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.

A. “Act” is not really there – BETTER is “Submit as free men...”

B. 3 occurrences of “as” in the verse = DESCRIPTION of the TRUE INNER NATURE of the REDEEMED

C. = SUBMIT, RECOGNIZING that you ARE FREE – FREE IN CHRIST

D. FREE FROM world, sin, condemnation, etc. Free TO OBEY and DO RIGHT!

E. Salvation makes you FREE

1. TO DO RIGHT! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE! =FREE to OBEY
2. 1 Corinthians 7:22 For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord’s freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ’s slave.
 - a) = FREE to be a slave of Christ!

F. BUT - do not use your freedom as a covering for evil.

1. Don't let LIBERTY BECOME LICENSE!
2. "covering" = a mask
 - a) = don't WEAR A MASK that is COVERING nothing but EVIL.
 - b) Principle of Romans 6: Christian FREEDOM is NEVER to be used to SIN
3. Evil = Evil of v.2:1 = general term for evil.
4. Evil APPLIED HERE
 - a) ACTING ABOVE the law of MEN
 - b) I'M NOT A CITIZEN HERE
 - c) I KNOW WHAT IS BETTER, OR CAN JUST DO WHAT I WANT.
 - d) OR – even sin – I'll let God punish me!

G. "but use it as bond slaves of God."

1. = IF you are TRULY FREE, act as BONDSLAVES of GOD
2. = OBEY His word!
3. "bondslave" = lowest form of slave
 - a) 3rd level galley slave
 - b) Paul called himself one! (Rom 1:1)
4. Free to do what is right!
 - a) Romans 6:15-18, 22

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! 16 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 resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that 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...22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

b) Galatians 5:13

13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

H. So – RECOGNIZE that YOU ARE FREE to DO RIGHT

1. DO SO knowing you are a SLAVE of GOD
2. DON'T USE your FREEDOM to COVER EVIL!

I. Transition

1. The Requirement: You must submit to every human institution
2. The Reason: You must submit for the Lord's sake.
3. The Result: You must submit to silence the ignorance of foolish men.
4. The Recognition: You must submit as free servants of God.

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

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

A. Honor all people.

1. General term of “all men” – not just government
2. = show them the proper respect as a person made in the image of God
 - a) 1Peter 2:12 – keep your behavior excellent behavior
 - b) 1 Peter 5:5 ... *all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.*
 - c) 1 Timothy 6:1 *All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.*

B. love the brotherhood.

1. Us! Easy! We're soooo loveable!
2. Remember 1 Peter
 - a) 1:22 – FERVENTLY LOVE = Stretchedly love
 - b) 4:8 – AGAIN – fervently love BECAUSE it covers a multitude of sins

C. fear God.

1. We've talked much about “fear” book!
2. Why do we fear God?
3. 1 Peter 1:15-17 *but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.” 17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;*
 - a) = When the OVERALL PATTERN of your BEHAVIOR
 - (1) moves AWAY from growth IN HOLINESS
 - (2) God will judge – CHASTEN you to get you back on track
 - (3) FEAR THAT and SO LIVE RIGHT to avoid that!

D. honor the king.

1. Ties back to v.13
2. SHOW HIM THE RESPECT DUE HIS POSITION
3. God has ordained his authority over you!

E. V.17 = LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM.

1. Do these things and GOD CAN USE YOU!
2. = Paul in Romans 6:12-13

12 *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,*
 13 *and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*
3. Peter is calling for the same thing!
 - a) “instrument of righteousness” = MILITARY WEAPON of God's R'ness!

VII. Conclusion

A. ***BUT you say – GOV'T can be BAD – WE KNOW WHAT IS BEST for OUR FAMILIES – Spouses / Children!***

1. Q: Does God know how bad Gov't can be??? AND
2. Q: WHO KNOWS what is the absolute BEST for you, your spouse, your children? GOD DOES.
3. Q: WHO LOVES you, your spouse, your children the most? GOD DOES.
4. Q: WHO IS THE SOVEREIGN OVER HUMAN HISTORY? Who said...Isaiah 46:8-11

8 "Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors.

9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it, surely* I will do it.

5. Q: WHO Suffered MORE INJUSTICE UNDER AUTHORITY than anyone WILL EVER SUFFER? Jesus Christ!

1 Peter 2:22-24 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

a) Oh – forgot v.21!

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

6. Q: WHO have we been called to follow the example of?
7. Q: What are we COMMANDED to do? SUBMIT to EVERY HUMAN INSTITUTION!

B. ***4 C's of Compliance!***

1. Commands of God
2. Condone and Compels of Gov't
 - a) Separate what Government CONDONE vs. what it COMPELS.
 - b) IF it COMPELS something CONTRARY to what GOD COMMANDS, we are to disobey (Acts 4 – obey God, not men).
3. Conscience of the Believer

C. ***Take this all to PRAYER and consider how you are doing in submission of human institutions.***

D. ***Meditate on these passages and let the Holy Spirit illumine you to a full understanding of our responsibility to Gov't!***