

Submission to Authority, Part 2 A Study of 1 Peter

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Key Truth: God's people should submit to human institutions to honor God and one another, and to silence those who slander believers in the gospel.

We must admit that we all have trouble submitting to authority. It's not that we refuse to submit to *all* authority. The question is, what kind of authority will we submit to? We don't seem to have a problem submitting to the "authority of self," or submitting to the influencers in our life. But all too often, we balk at the authorities that God puts in place. When we find a human authority that we don't respect or who doesn't match our tastes or convictions, we have a really hard time submitting. Yet, these are the very people God commands us to submit to.

DISCUSS

Read **1 Peter 2:13-17** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in Part 2 of the sermon entitled "**Submission to Authority.**"

DIG IN

1. The Scope of Biblical Submission: (vv. 13-14)

Why is it so hard to submit to human authorities?

In what ways is the "emperor" supreme? In what ways is he not supreme? Why is it important to know the difference?

In what ways do we tend to "submit" outwardly, but not inwardly? Can you describe a personal example of that kind of outward "submission?"

2. The Purpose of Biblical Submission (vv. 15-17)

Why should all biblical submission be for the Lord's sake (see v. 13)?

A. To silence the foolish:

In what ways does our subjection to human institutions constitute "doing good" and puts "to silence the ignorance of foolish people" (v. 15)?

B. To serve God and others:

In what ways does biblical submission contribute to serving God and others, including honoring the "emperor" (v. 17)?

How does the gospel remove the "sting" of submission?

Why is it important to remember that human authorities are temporary, but God's ultimate authority is eternal? How does this also help remove the "sting" of submission?

DO

This week, assess your attitude toward governing authorities. What changes should you make (thoughts, words, actions) to bring yourself closer to joyful submission for the Lord's sake?