

Sermon Title: There's Something More Important Than Your Rights, Part 2

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 2:13-17

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a God glorifying custom, by submitting to governing authorities.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 key principles for a God glorifying witness in submission to government.

I. The narrator of submission to government. V.13a-b

A. The command of the narrator. V.13a

Submit yourselves (hupotasso) is a military term meaning "to arrange in formation under the commander."

Proverbs 24:21 My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate with those given to change; **22** For their calamity will rise suddenly, And who knows the ruin those two can bring?

23 These *things* also *belong* to the wise: *It is* not good to show partiality in judgment.

Deuteronomy 17:14 "When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that *are* around me,' **15** "you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; *one* from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who *is* not your brother.

No apostle, not even Jesus Himself offered any exemption by which believers were free to disobey or rebel against civil authority.

B. The concept of the narrator. V.13b

The Christian's are to submit on "account of the Lord" there is an overriding command, followed by an overriding motive. This command and motive governs the following sections in (**2:18; 3:1; 3:7; etc.**). Submission on "account of the Lord" is the Christians general characteristic of the publicity morality that sinners observe.

Psalms 119:12 Blessed *are* You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes! **13** With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. . . **33** HE. Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it *to* the end.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Three roles of government:

1. Restraint of evil
2. Promotion of public good
3. Punishment of wrong doing

II. The narrative of submission to government. V.13c-14

A. The expressed perspective. V.13c-14a

1. Believers submit to reflect the sovereignty of God over life.

2. We submit in order to visibly imitate Christ's example of obedience and submission to the Father's will. (**1 Peter 2:23**)

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Jesus did denounce the sins of the Jewish leaders (**Matt 16:11-12; 23:13-33**)

B. The expressed purpose. V.14b

Genesis 9:5 "Surely for your lifeblood I will demand *a reckoning*; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. **6** "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. **7** And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

Matthew 26:50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. **51** And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. **52** But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. **53** "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"

John 18:10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. **11** So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

Romans 13:4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil.

III. The nature of submission to government. V.15-16

A. The reason. V.15

The reason Christian's ought to submit to every institution of authority is clear, it is because such behavior stops the mouth of the gospel critics. Silence (phimoun) means to restrain, muzzle, or make speechless. It denotes the gagging of someone's mouth so as to render that part incapable of response. Ignorance (agnosian) means more than lack of knowledge, but is willful, hostile rejection of truth.

Colossians 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

B. The attitude. V.16

All Christian's must focus on manifesting the results of Christ's redemptive work.
(cf 1 Pet 1:18-19)

1. Freed from sins condemnation

Romans 6:7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. . . .**18** And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

2. Freed from the laws penalty (**Gal 5:13**)

3. Freed from Satan's bondage

Galatians 4:3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. **4** But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

4. Freed from death's power (**1 Cor 15**)

5. Freed from sin's power (Rom 6)

[Quote on next page]

“Any great Christian doctrine can be perverted into an excuse for evil. The doctrine of grace can be perverted into an excuse for sinning to one’s heart’s content. The doctrine of the love of God can be sentimentalized into a defense for breaking the law of God. The doctrine of the life to come can be perverted into a reason for neglecting life in this world. And there is no doctrine so easy to pervert as the doctrine of Christian freedom and Christian liberty.

There are hints in the New Testament that it was frequently so perverted. Paul tells the Galatians that they have been called to liberty, but they must not use that liberty as an occasion for the flesh to do as it wills (Galatians 5:13). In 2 Peter we read of those who promise others liberty and who are themselves the servants of corruption (2 Peter 2:19)”

[The Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible, I & II Peter, I, II, III John, Jude, p.65]

IV. The network of submission to government. V.17

- A. Demonstrate honor toward all people. V.17a
This is done as the Christian’s treat people as created in the image of God people, because of this they are due some level of respect. Christian’s do not discriminate, show favoritism, or partiality based on class, race, nationality or economic status.
- B. Demonstrate love toward the brotherhood. V.17b
This is done by showing love toward fellow heirs, and resident aliens.
John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
1 John 3:23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.
- C. Demonstrate fear toward God. V.17c (**Prov 9:10; Eccl 12:13**)
Deuteronomy 13:4 "You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.
Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever.
Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You alone are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."
 - 1. Done by trusting God in all circumstances. (**Ps 36:7; Prov 3:5**)
 - 2. Done by trusting God in difficult times. (**1 Pet 5:7; Ps 24:22; 2 Tim 1:12**)
 - 3. Done by worshipping God as the Sovereign One (**Matt 6:33-34; Rom 8:28**)
 - 4. Done by recognizing God as the orchestrator of everything according to His perfect will. (**1 Sam 2:7-8; Ps 145:9; Prov 19:21**)
- D. Demonstrate honor toward the king. V.17d
Romans 13:7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.
As God’s agent for carrying out the purposes of government, the dictator, monarch, premier, prime minister, or president is worthy of respect, because they are God’s ministers. When believers live these principles out before a lost and dying human race it provides credibility to the Christian faith, call it “evangelistic citizenship”.