

## SUBMITTING TO GOD AND MAN

### I. SUBMIT TO EVERY HUMAN INSTITUTION – 1 Peter 2:13

- A. Submit – *“to arrange in formation under the commander, to rank yourself under those in authority over you.”*
- B. *“Submit yourself”* – it’s what you have to do yourself.
- C. God set up earthly authorities - family, work and government. Romans 13:1

### II. SUBMIT TO GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES – 1 Peter 2:14-15

- A. We are to submit to kings and governors, to Presidents, Prime Ministers, and other government leaders, even ones who are evil. Leaders are to punish evil doers, and praise those who do what is right. Matt. 26:62-63
- B. Submitting to earthly rulers:
  - 1. Rulers are from God – Isaiah 40:23, Romans 13:1-7
  - 2. God works through rulers – Isaiah 45, Proverbs 21:1
  - 3. God’s purposes will be fulfilled, even through evil rulers. Romans 9:17
  - 4. Not submitting to earthly rulers is sinning against God.
  - 5. Do not submit to rulers if they want you to do what is wrong. Acts 4:16-20, 5:27
  - 6. Submitting to the governing authorities is the will of God. 1 Peter 2:15
  - 7. Submitting to authorities is a way to witness to them and the world.

### III. USING YOUR FREEDOM TO SERVE GOD – 1 Peter 2:16

- A. As a Christian you are free from the bondage of sin and are a slave of God, a slave of righteousness. Romans 6:12-20, 1 Corinthians 7:22
- B. As a Christian you are not free to sin, or to do whatever you want. Your freedom of choice can run contrary to what God says about how you are free in Christ. You are free to do what is right but are never free to do what is wrong.
- C. Christians sometimes have a wrong understanding of grace. You are not free to sin just because you know you are under God’s grace and are forgiven of that sin. Romans 6:1-2, Titus 2:11-12

#### IV. CHRISTIANS ARE SLAVES OF CHRIST – 1 Peter 2:16

- A. Christians are bond-slaves of God, literally slaves of God. The word “*doulos*” is usually wrongly translated in English translations.
- B. Slaves during the time of Christ: a slave was owned by his master. He was to be available to serve his master 24/7. A slave had only one master. The life of a slave was simple, to obey his master. The slave had no freedom and no rights. All the needs of a slave were met. The slave had to give an account of his work to his master. There were all kinds of slaves. There were good and bad masters.
- C. As Christians we are slaves. A Christian has been redeemed and is therefore owned by God. God is our Master and we are to submit to Him and serve Him. God is a perfect Master, one who is loving and should be feared. God will meet all our needs as we serve Him. There are all kinds of slaves with all kinds of gifts. Being under Christ’s authority means we are free to do whatever He wants. God will greatly reward us for our service to Him. Jms. 4:7, Matt. 25:20-21, 1 Cor. 6:19-20

#### V. SOME OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CHRISTIAN – 1 Peter 2:17

The principle of submission is necessary in your relationships.

- A. “*Honor all people.*” We are to respect every person in life, for they are all made in God’s image, and are loved by Him. We are not to discriminate.
- B. “*Love the brotherhood.*” This is “*phileo*” love. We are to have a family type, brotherly type love for every believer.
- C. “*Fear God.*” To fear God means you know that God is holy and will judge sin; you know He is powerful and sovereign, and can do whatever He wants; you know He can show you mercy, and so you humble yourself before Him and fear Him and trust Him. True knowledge, true obedience, true love for God, true blessing from God only comes as you fear Him. Deuteronomy 10:12, 13:4
- D. “*Honor the king.*” You are to honor the king who is in authority over you. If you fear God and honor Him, then you will honor the king.

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,  
AND HAVING BEEN FREED FROM SIN,  
YOU BECAME SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Romans 6:17-18