

OPENING REMARKS: "Open your Bibles to 1 Peter 2:13-17..."

ILLUSTRATION:

- Volunteer chaplain for about 10 years in many jails around California.
- Went through training, background check, finger prints, etc.
- Authorized to be in the jail at a certain time and certain cell block.
- Guards don't trust you; make extra work for them (some are atheist)
- I built trust with one guard over many months.
- He attended one of my services; (said a "possible riot" that night)
- Afterward, he walked out with me, asked questions; I shared gospel.
- IT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE I ACTED RESPECTFULLY OVER THE MONTHS PRIOR.

THEME: **Godly Citizens Submit to God's Governing Authorities**

READ: 1 Peter 2:12-17

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.

FIVE ACTIONS FOR GODLY CITIZENS:

- I. Godly Citizens **SUBMIT** - (vs. 13)**
- II. Godly Citizens **ACT** - (vs. 16)**
- III. Godly Citizens **HONOR** - (vs. 17)**
- IV. Godly Citizens **LOVE** - (vs. 17)**
- V. Godly Citizens **FEAR** - (vs. 17)**

I. Godly Citizens "SUBMIT" - (vs.13)

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.

- A. **"Submit"** - (*hupotasso*)
- military expression: "to arrange in formation under the commander"
- B. "the Lord's sake" - our holy reason for submitting to authority
- C. "every human institution"
- "institution" (*ktisis*) - means "foundation" ... as in "creation"
1. "a king" - Nero was the Roman emperor
 2. "governors" - refers to other "ranks" under the head authority
 - a. **1st Responders: Sheriffs, Police, Fire Fighters, Doctors, Nurses**
 - b. CORONAVIRUS: Churches have been mandated not to meet physically. But this isn't persecution. Rather, it is a temporary restrain on all business and organizations around the country. Therefore, churches and Christians need to obey God's governing authorities in this temporary mandate.
- D. "the will of God" - the primary purpose for what God wants out of it.

Cross-References:

ROMANS 13:1-7

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 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 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; 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. 5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. 7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor."

TITUS 3:1-2

1 "Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, 2 to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men."

1 TIMOTHY 3:2, 7 - (Character Qualification for Elder)

2 "An overseer, then, must be above reproach... 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

II. Godly Citizens "ACT" - (vs.16)

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

- A. "Act" - refers to lifestyle; word, thought, and deeds

- B. "as free men" - to submit ourselves is an act of spiritual freedom

- C. "bondslaves of God" - submission to others is an act of service to God.
 - 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."

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MOMENTS OF "But what if...?"

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QUESTION: Is it ever appropriate to be disobedient to the governing authorities?

- *What if the governing leader is a non-Christian, or even a Muslim?*
- *What if the governing leader is rude, mean, unethical, or a tyrant?*
- *What if the government will use my money (taxes) to support abortion?*
- *What if the governing leader is physically persecuting Christians?*

1. We are to ALWAYS submit to the governing authorities, even when it is uncomfortable, inconvenient, painful, or even costs us our lives (crucified).

(c.f. Acts 5:18, 26, 34, 40-41)

18 *"They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail." - (no arguing)*

26 *"Then the captain went along with the officers and proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned)." - (they went without complaint)*

34 *"But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time." - (They did not object)*

40 *"They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. **41** So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name." - (never once did they complain)*

2. We can be disobedient to governing authorities ONLY when it (they) tells us to do something God forbids or to not do something that God commands.

(Acts 5:27-32, 42)

27 *"When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, **28** saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." **29** But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men." **30** The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. **31** He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."*

42 *"And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."*

III. Godly Citizens "HONOR" - (vs.17)

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

- A. "Honor" - means to show respectful preference
- B. "all people" - not some, but all
- C. "the king" - The one in authority making the rules; Nero
 - 1. **Matthew 22:21** *"Then He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's."*

IV. Godly Citizens "LOVE" - (vs.17)

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

- A. "**love**" - 'agapate': means covenant love; the kind of love God has
- B. "the brotherhood" - refers to the professing church
 - 1. **John 13:34-35** *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

V. Godly Citizens "FEAR" - (vs. 17)

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

A. "fear" - from the word: phobia

B. "God" - your Maker, Creator, Designer, Judge, and Redeemer

1. Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
2. Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the Lord prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.
3. Proverbs 22:4 The reward of humility *and* the fear of the Lord Are riches, honor and life.
4. Psalms 34:11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
5. Proverbs 1:28-29 "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently but they will not find me, Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord.
6. Psalms 19:9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.
7. **Ephesians 5:15-21 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.**

Application: **Godly Citizens Submit to God's Governing Authorities**

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- Be sure you have the proper objects for your Honor, Love, and Fear.
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- Honor everyone; Love the brotherhood; Fear God.
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- Be sure not to: Fear man (or circumstances); ignore the brotherhood, or Lack Faith In God.
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- FOR EXAMPLE: Have the mindset of the prophet Elisha and not the unnecessary fear that Elisha's servant experienced.
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CONCLUSION: **2 Kings 6:8-17** - (fearing man vs. trusting God)

8 "Now the king of Aram was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, "In such and such a place shall be my camp." 9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Arameans are coming down there." 10 The king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice.

11 Now the heart of the king of Aram was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?" 12 One of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." 13 So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." 14 He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."