



SURRENDERING TO GOD'S WAY WITH THE GOVERNMENT

I. Christians submit to the government because they are first submitted to God.

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. vv. 13-14

II. Christians exercise their freedom by doing good, not by breaking the law.

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. vv. 15-16

III. Christians respect the authority of the government while fearing the God above it.

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. v. 17

HOME GROUP

Lesson + Devotional

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. What do you think of when you hear the word *submission*, and why? What about submission appeals to you, and what troubles you?
2. What should a Christian do if the government passes a law that is contrary to the Word of God? How do you know?
3. How does *doing good* silence foolish people? How can we relate to the government today in ways that gain credibility for the gospel?
4. Who are the authorities you must honor in your life? How have you failed to honor them? How have you succeeded even when you've disagreed with them?
5. How do you think the phrase *for the Lord's sake* (v. 13) should affect the way we submit to authorities? Think of some motives for submission that would not be for the Lord's sake.
6. How do you think being *servants of God* (v. 16) should affect the way we submit to other people?
7. Search Romans 13:1-14 for motives and ways of treating people in authority.
8. How can you bring yourself in line with Peter's instructions this week?

HELPFUL Quotes

Peter is as aware as we are today of the possibility of corruption in high places. He even calls Rome "Babylon" in his closing greeting (5:13). We submit to worldly authority even though it is to pass away under the judgment of God. We know that God's world is fallen, but we submit to his ordering of it, keen to testify by our lives to what is to come.
- Stephen Motyer

Peter does not commend one form of government over another at this point. The principle is that the Christian should submit to the government under which he lives. Christianity has existed for almost two thousand years under all kinds of governmental structures. God has ordained the institution of government to provide order for society, and the Christian ought to fulfill his proper duties. - Louis Barbieri

Submission does not mean slavery or subjugation but simply the recognition of God's authority in our lives. God has established the home, human government and the church, and He has the right to tell us how these institutions should be run. God wants each of us to exercise authority, but before we can exercise authority we must be *under* authority. Satan's offer to our first parents was freedom without authority, but they ended up losing both freedom *and* authority. The Prodigal Son found his freedom when he yielded to his father's will. - Warren Wiersbe

The biblical command is simple—submit to civil authority, regardless of its nature. Even unreasonable, evil, harsh rulers and oppressive systems are far better than anarchy. And all forms of government, from dictatorships to democracies, are filled with evil because they are led by fallen sinners. Still, civil authority is from God, though the individual rulers may be godless. ... God still exercises sovereign and perfectly wise rule over societies and nations (cf. Gen 18:25). - John MacArthur

Respect is not the same as *honor*. We may not respect someone, but we can and should still honor him or her. We may not be able to respect certain government officials because of their personal character, behavior or beliefs. Still we can and should honor them because they occupy an office that places them in a position of authority over us.
- Tom Constable

When civil law and God's law are in opposition, the illustrations in the Bible [Dan 3:18; 6:10; Acts 5:29] sanction, if not obligate, the believer to protest or disobey. But when a believer feels he should disobey his government, he must be sure it is not because the government has denied him his rights but because it has denied him God's rights.
- Charles Ryrie

YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.
(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.
(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.
(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!