

For the Lord's Sake

1 Peter 2:13-25

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17.

1. Verse 13 begins with the word *therefore*. Read 1 Peter 2:11-12 and summarize what these verses encourage believers to do and why.

Peter called on believers to conduct themselves with honor toward unbelievers, hoping that their outward testimony would result in some being won for the Lord.

2. In light of this, what does verse 13 instruct believers to do?

Submit – imperative obey, be subject (In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden".)

Ordinance – creation or institution, the institutions that create and enforce laws

3. What reason is given for submitting to every ordinance of man? (v. 13)

4. **THINK:** How do you think our submission or lack of submission reflects on God?

5. Use verses 13-14 to answer the following questions.

- a. What two authorities are mentioned specifically?

- b. For what two reasons have the governors been sent?

6. According to Romans 13:1, where do our governing authorities come from?

7. What is true of a believer who resists their governing authorities, and what will be the result of that decision? (Romans 13:2)

8. **THINK:** Do you think it is possible to remain subject to an institution while violating a specific law of that institution? Why or why not? Consider Daniel 1-3 when answering.

Remember that Peter was writing to believers facing severe persecution at the hands of their governing authorities.

9. **THINK:** What do you think would have been the gut reaction to this message by those who had been forced out of their homes and were living in a foreign land?

10: How did Daniel's friends react to the king's fury and his decision to throw them into the fiery furnace? (Daniel 3) How did Jesus react to the chief priests, Pilate, and Herod? (John 18-19:16; Luke 23:5-12)

10. What was Jesus' advice to the persecuted church in Smyrna? (Revelation 2:10)

Faithful – one who has kept his plighted (solemn pledge, especially to betroth) faith
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11. What is the number one reason we should submit to our governing authorities? (1 Peter 2:15a)

12. What will be the result of our submitting to our governing authorities? (v. 15b)

Silence – to stop the mouth, make speechless, reduce to silence

Foolish Men – senseless, foolish, stupid; without reflection or intelligence, acting rashly

13. **THINK:** How do you think our being subject to our governing authorities and, if needed, being faithful unto death can silence foolish men?

14. According to verse 16, how are we to do this? _____

NOT: _____

BUT: _____

Free – in an ethical sense: free from the yoke of the Mosaic Law

Liberty – fancied liberty, i.e., license, the liberty to do as one pleases

Cloak – metaphorically, equivalent to a pretext

Vice – wickedness that is not ashamed to break the laws

Bondservant – one who gives himself up wholly to another's will

15. Using the definitions provided, summarize how God wants us to submit to our governing authorities.

16. What additional instructions are given in verse 17?

Honor – to value or bestow value upon

Love – to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly

Brotherhood – of Christians

Fear – to reverence, venerate (to regard with deep respect), to treat with deference (yielding of judgment or preference from respect to the wishes or opinion of another) or reverential obedience

17. **THINK:** What do you think it looks like for a Christian to honor all men?

18. **THINK HARDER:** How can we honor a king that we disagree with?

19. **THINK EVEN HARDER:** How do fearing God and honoring the king go together?

As Christians, we must exercise discernment in our relationship to human government. There are times when the right thing to do is to set aside our own privileges, and there are other times when using our citizenship is the right thing to do.

- Warren Wiersbe

Read 1 Peter 2:18-20.

The servant/master relationship is not very common today; however, we can easily view this in terms of the employer-employee dynamic or any situation where we have someone in a leadership position over us.

20. What is commendable before God according to verses 18-20?

v. 18 _____

v. 19 _____

v. 20 _____

Submissive – to subject oneself, to obey, to submit to one's control, to yield to one's admonition or advice: absolutely

Fear – Reverence, respect for authority

21. **THINK:** What point do you think Peter was trying to make with the rhetorical question he posed in verse 20?

22. Summarize what Jesus had to say on this matter in His Sermon on the Mount. (Luke 6:32-36)

23. Carefully document Paul's instructions in Romans 12:16-21.

Things To Do	Things Not To Do

24 What reason does Paul give for doing these things in Titus 2:9-10?

The Bible has purpose in everything it says and in everything it asks of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their LORD and Savior. The responsibilities of believers are always tied to a doctrine (teaching) of God. Peter ties the duty of submission in times of suffering to the example of Jesus Himself.

Read 1 Peter 2:21-25.

25. Why are we called to do good and suffer patiently? (v. 21, 25)

26. What does Jesus want us to do with His example? _____

27. How does Peter describe Jesus in verse 22?

28. Read the following verses and record how Peter had previously handled submitting to authority and suffering.

John 18:3-11

John 18:15-27

29. Read the following verses and briefly summarize what had happened and how Peter later handled these types of situations.

Acts 4:1-24

Acts 5:17-20

Acts 5:26-28; 40-42

30. How would you describe Peter's growth since Jesus' death and resurrection?

Peter had learned from Jesus' example. Moving forward, he was a completely different man. No more drawing his sword or lying to escape potential danger. Now, he stood firm, respecting the authority God had appointed, while fearing and trusting the Lord with the outcome of boldly proclaiming the Gospel when told not to.

31. Use 1 Peter 2:23 to answer the following.

What Was Done to Jesus	How Jesus Responded
When He was reviled	
When He suffered	
But Instead	

Revile – to reproach, rail at, heap abuse upon

Suffered – to undergo evils, to be afflicted

Committed – to give over into one's power or use

32. **THINK:** Why do you think it was important to mention that Jesus committed Himself to "Him, who judges righteously"?

33. How can you follow this example in your own life? Consider the reality of verse 25 when answering.

34. Read verse 24 and answer the following:

- What did Jesus do for you? _____
- What example must we follow? _____
- What are we to live for? _____
- How is it that we are able to do this? _____

35. THINK: What do you think it means to “live for righteousness”?

36. Are you living for righteousness? In what areas do you see yourself living for righteousness? In what areas are you resisting?

37. Jesus is the Shepherd and Overseer of your soul. It doesn't get any better than that. Read the following verses and record what you learn about Jesus as your Shepherd.

Psalm 23

John 10:11 and 14

We once were lost, unaware of the danger that surrounded us, unable to do anything to help ourselves, but, “... the God of peace... brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,” so that we could be brought into the fold to be kept by our great Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

38. The world is watching. Our great Shepherd is keeping us. How does this motivate you to follow Christ's example in submitting to authority and patiently suffering at their hand if need be? How can this be for God's glory?

A Closer Look at Using Our Liberties

1 Peter 2:16

39. Write out 1 Peter 2:16.

In the Bible, liberty can mean one of three things: a) that the Christian has been freed from the penalty and power of sin by faith in Jesus, b) that the Christian has been freed from the Jewish Law of Moses, and c) that the Christian has freedom to do or omit things having no relationship to salvation.

Liberty means freedom, and 1 Peter 2:16 refers to the freedom to choose whether or not to engage in actions that the Bible does not explicitly prohibit.

40. Read Colossians 3:5 and 8 and list those things that the Bible clearly forbids.

Some activities not directly forbidden in the Bible include, but are not limited to, drinking, gambling, card playing, smoking, certain kinds of music, certain kinds of shows and movies, makeup, clothing, sports, tattoos, where to do business, and piercings.

41. Read 1 Corinthians 10:23. What is Paul saying in this passage? (lawful = liberties)

42. Now read the next verse (24). What are we to seek?

43. Next, read 1 Corinthians 8. What is the truth found in verse 9 about liberties?

Here is a historical background of what was taking place at this time:

Greco-Roman society was saturated with idol worship, and it was common for meat sold in the marketplace to have been consecrated as a sacrifice to false gods. The Jews wanted nothing to

do with the meat, wary of “unclean” food-handling practices and believing that to partake of consecrated meat was to approve of idol worship. However, the Gentiles rejected the notion that such meat was tainted and held that they could eat meat sacrificed to idols without endorsing idolatry—they had not actually offered the sacrifice, after all. The matter was becoming a point of contention within the church.
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The liberty of the day was eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols. But some found it offensive. Therefore, for the sake of the conscience of those who found it offensive, Paul said he would never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. (1Corinthians 8:13)

44. Review the liberties listed in the statement following question 40. Choose one. How could exercising that liberty cause another to stumble?

45. Could exercising any of the liberties cause you to eventually stumble if you engaged in it? How?

46. What should be our priority? Our liberty? Or the well-being (conscience) of our sister in Christ? Explain your answer.

We have been called to deny ourselves and follow Jesus. 1 Peter 2:16 exhorts us not to use our liberties to sin. Ponder the freedom you have because of Jesus and thank Him for it, and purpose in your heart to use your liberties with restraint so as not to stumble your fellow believers.

"For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."
- Galatians 5:13