

2018 - Evangelism Part 5 - 2018-02-25 - 1 Peter 2:11-17

Call to Worship: Psalm 7:17

Scripture Reading: Exodus 22:21-28

Sermon: "Evangelism Part 4" 1 Peter 2:11-17

Benediction: Psalm 7:9-10

INTRODUCTION

Before you heard the evangel, the gospel, and were convinced of the truth of it, and believed in Jesus Christ, to the saving of your soul, you were not a part of the people of God. You were of the world, but a stranger to Christ.

Before you heard the evangel, the gospel, and repented of sin, turning to follow Christ as His disciple, you walked in darkness, not knowing that you were stumbling toward hell.

But by the mercy of God, you heard the evangel, the good news. You heard of Jesus Christ's perfect life, and of His death on the cross for sinners. You heard of his resurrection on the third day. You heard that there is forgiveness of sins in Him for all who believe. You heard the command, "Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins!" By the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in you, you believed in Jesus Christ, repenting of sin. You were saved! Now you look forward to the eternal life with Him that is promised to all who believe in Him.

Now you are not strangers to the people of God---you are the people of God. What you have become are strangers to the world; pilgrims just passing through, not really belonging here anymore, with your ultimate citizenship not in your earthly country, but in heaven.

Of course you want the sinners around you, still aliens to the Kingdom of God, to hear and believe the evangel, the gospel, just as you have. You want to do your part in evangelism. Friends and relatives who go to other churches do a variety of things, calling them evangelism, and ask you why you don't do them, or accuse you of not being evangelistic because you don't do them. What is the answer to these questions and accusations?

Evangelism is, most properly, the making known the gospel where it is not yet known. But there is also the aspect of evangelism that is making those who have heard the gospel and won't believe to be convinced of the truth of the gospel, and so to become believers themselves. And this is the aspect of evangelism that our friends often mean when they talk to us about evangelism.

So, we have been looking into evangelism from this angle, asking our Lord Jesus what His Word tell us we are to do for the sake of evangelism. We have been looking from scripture to scripture in the bible, finding out what our Lord tells us to do, to do our part in evangelism, both so we will know what to do, and so we will know what to tell those who criticize us.

Today we come to this instruction from our Lord on evangelism:

To convince sinners of the truth of the Gospel, so that by God's grace some will believe and be saved, submit yourselves to the government at every level.

TEXT

1 Peter 2:11-17 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, (12) having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. (13) Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, (14) or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. (15) For **this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men--** (16) as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice [ESV evil], but as bondservants of God. (17) Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king [ESV emperor].

BODY

To convince sinners of the truth of the Gospel, so that by God's grace some will believe and be saved, submit yourselves to the government at every level.

- I. Submit Yourself to the Government at Every Level
 - A. "Submit" or "be subject" - *hupotasso*
 1. arrange under
 2. God has ordered things a certain way
 3. your role is to take your place under the government officials in that order
 - B. Consider what the bible tells us about that order established by God
 1. before the flood, man showed that without a government ordained by God, man would fill the earth with violence - Genesis 6:13
 2. after the flood, God blessed our sinful race with the institution of human government Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.
 3. Romans 13:1-6
 - C. Consider how our system of government was founded on that God-given order
 1. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life . . . , that to secure these rights government are instituted among men . . .
 2. Genesis 1, 2 - men are created by a Creator
 3. Genesis 1,2 - men are created equal, descending from one common progenitor

4. Genesis 9 - men are endowed with the right to life, the right not to be murdered
 5. Genesis 9 - governments are instituted to secure the people's rights, primarily the right not to have their blood shed by man, the right to life
 6. If that government is to operate, those who do the work have to be paid; so, taxes have to be levied
 7. If taxes are to be levied, someone has to collect them, and has to be paid for his work
 8. Clearly in our state and our republic, this system is being abused on an enormous scale; but the principles of the system are sound, based very much on what the bible tells us that God has instituted
 9. If you have the right not to be murdered, some governments might pass laws regarding public sanitation, requiring that plumbing and septic systems be installed and maintained in a certain way, to insure that no one sells you a property or house, or rents you one, in which the wastewater is not properly isolated from the water supply
 10. If you have the right not to be murdered, some governments might pass laws regarding the installation of electric wiring, so that when you stay at a hotel, or when you sleep in your home at night, you will not be in danger of a fire breaking out from faulty wiring
 11. all of these things are subject to interpretation in various jurisdictions, and open to abuse by sinful govt officials, but our system of government is founded squarely on what God has instituted; it is essentially an arrangement of His design
- D. Therefore, we are to take our place in it, and our place in it is under the government at every level
- E. Returning to our passage, 1 Peter 2, see how we are commanded that in verses 13-14, and that rationale I have just expounded to you is stated briefly

Submit Yourself to the Government at Every Level

- II. Submit Yourselves to the Government As a God-Given Means for Evangelism
- A. See that this is part of what is called, in general, "good works" or "good deed" - 1 Peter 2:12
 - B. See that this is described as being "the will of God"
 1. We often ask, or hear of others asking, "What is God's will for my life?"
 - a) usually people mean that they are facing some decision, some choice between two options, and they want to know which God would have them do; they desire special revelation from God in addition to what the bible says
 - b) usually people are going at that question the wrong way
 - c) here is how we should go at that question: what does the bible say is the will of God for my life, so I can know to do that

- d) here it is: submit to the government
 - 2. Note that this is God's will for you, in order that you may do your part in overcoming unbelievers' opposition to the gospel: by this, you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men
- C. APPLICATION
- 1. here is a man or woman who wants to do good works, good deeds, to win others to Christ
 - 2. but he or she does only things that someone has imagined, has invented
 - 3. let it be that he or she does this, knowing it is part of the good works God has ordained to be evangelistic
- D. APPLICATION
- 1. here is a man who wants to spend his time and money doing things with the church, which he considers to be evangelism; he wants to do those things to overcome sinners' bad attitudes toward the gospel
 - 2. but he does not want to take the time and go to the expense to make sure his work is in compliance with government regulations
 - 3. I do not mean to speak against a man who gives appropriate attention to the one and to the other
 - 4. but this thing IS the will of God for you
- E. APPLICATION
- 1. government officials deal constantly with people who are trying to get out of complying with the regulations that they are supposed to be enforcing; or who gripe and grumble about having to comply with them; think of what it is for that government official to hear that such a person is a Christian; what if he accepts an invitation to church, and there he sees two such people among the members; then the preachers stands to preach, and it is none other than the grumbliest, complainingest one of all!
 - 2. think of the government official who keeps encountering people, just a few, just one here and there, who speak to him respectfully, cheerfully fill out all his paperwork the way he wants it, and don't ever try to get away with something; does he notice that? does that mean anything to him?
- F. APPLICATION
- 1. there are a number of things afoot on the national scene, where sinners are using the federal and state governments to criminalize basic Christian, biblical morality
 - 2. let it be that the government, in all their making of laws, or executing of laws, or judging the people by the laws, and judging the laws themselves, always have the peaceful, submissive conduct of the Christians they know in their minds as they rule

Submit Yourself to the Government at Every Level

Submit Yourselves to the Government As a God-Given Means for Evangelism

- III. Submit Yourselves to the Government, Not Using Liberty As an Excuse Not to Submit
- A. You are indeed free in Christ
 - B. There is a temptation to use that liberty as a cloak to cover your evil-doing
 - 1. I am free in Christ from rules and regulations; as long as I'm acting in love, I don't have to comply
 - 2. I am a free American; I decide things for myself; no one rules over me
 - C. Here I'll bring in an area in which I have been especially tempted: using my liberty as a cloak for speaking evil of government officials, or speaking irreverently to government officials
 - 1. 2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,
 - 2. Jude 1:8 Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.
 - 3. see Paul Acts 23:1-5
 - a) he is quoting Exodus 22:28, as read earlier
 - D. Therefore, in this matter, do not think primarily of yourself as a free man, but as the servant of God

Submit Yourself to the Government at Every Level

Submit Yourselves to the Government As a God-Given Means for Evangelism

Submit Yourselves to the Government, Not Using Liberty As an Excuse Not to Submit

- IV. Submit Yourselves to the Government As a Component of the Whole Christian Life
- A. See the components that make up the whole Christian life
 - 1. Honor all men [ESV people]: give honor wherever honor is due
 - a) parents
 - b) husband
 - c) church elders
 - d) whoever you are working for
 - 2. Love the brotherhood: (preview of 1 John!)
 - 3. Fear God
 - 4. Honor the King [ESV emperor]
 - B. Understand your temptation to pick and choose from among those

CONCLUSION

To convince sinners of the truth of the Gospel, so that by God's grace some will believe and be saved, submit yourselves to the government at every level.

Submit Yourselves to the Government As a God-Given Means for Evangelism

Submit Yourselves to the Government, Not Using Liberty As an Excuse Not to Submit

Submit Yourselves to the Government As a Component of the Whole Christian Life

Then trust that God will use this as a means to bring unbelievers to salvation in Christ!

- I. government officials deal constantly with people who are trying to get out of complying with the regulations that they are supposed to be enforcing; or who gripe and grumble about having to comply with them; think of what it is for that government official to hear that such a person is a Christian; what if he accepts an invitation to church, and there he sees two such people among the members; then the preacher stands to preach, and it is none other than the grumbliest, complainingest one of all!
- II. think of the government official who keeps encountering people, just a few, just one here and there, who speak to him respectfully, cheerfully fill out all his paperwork the way he wants it, and don't ever try to get away with something; does he notice that? does that mean anything to him?
- III. e.g. septic; e.g. driver's license

CONCLUSION

2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to **speak evil of dignitaries**,

Calvin:

there is no doubt but that in these words he refers to the imperial and magisterial power

Geneva:

do seditiously speak evil of the authority of magistrates

Trapp:

How boldly and basely doth Baronius bellow against the king of Spain his sovereign!

Wesley:

Persons in authority

Gill:

rather of civil magistrates

Clarke:

speak contemptuously of all legal and civil jurisdiction

Barnes:

the meaning is, that they did not regard rank, or station, or office - thus violating the plainest rules of propriety and of religion

Ellicott:

The context in both places seems to show that spiritual powers alone are intended, and that earthly powers, whether civil or ecclesiastical, are not included, much less exclusively indicated.

Carroll:

these men that he is discussing here, they rail at dignities. Here were these apostles whom God had appointed; here were these pastors of the church whom they disregarded, the discipline of the church that they set aside. They had no reverence for official position of any kind.

RWP:

Perhaps these dignities (doxas) are angels

Jude 1:8-10 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and **speak evil of dignitaries**. (9) Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (10) But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

Calvin:

it yet appears from the words of Jude that they were wont to speak insolently and reproachfully of magistrates

Geneva Bible:

they take away the authority of the government and slander them

Poole:

either spiritual governors, or rather, civil

Henry:

it is a great aggravation of the sin of evil-speaking when what we say is pointed at magistrates

Gill:

this is to be understood either of angels . . . or ecclesiastical governors . . . or else civil magistrates

Wesley:

The apostle does not seem to speak of worldly dignities.

Clarke:

They treat governors and government with contempt

JFB:

Earthly and heavenly

Ellicott:

unseen powers worthy of reverence . . . Earthly dignities, whether ecclesiastical or civil, are not included

Acts 23:1-5 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." (2) And the high priest Ananias commanded

those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. (3) Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?" (4) And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?" (5) Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK EVIL OF A RULER OF YOUR PEOPLE.'" [Exodus 22:28]

This was a highly corrupt official.

This official had just commanded Paul be struck on the mouth.

Exodus 22:21-28 "You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. (22) "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. (23) If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; (24) and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless. (25) "If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest. (26) If you ever take your neighbor's garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down. (27) For that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious. (28) **"You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.**

1 Peter 2:23

Titus 3:2 speak evil of no one

John 18:19-23 The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. (20) Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. (21) Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said." (22) And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" (23) Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"

Spurgeon:

True Christians give no trouble in the State. They are not law-breakers, but they strive to do that which is honest and upright. Where the laws are not righteous, they may cause trouble to bad law-givers and lawmakers; but when rulers ordain that which is just and righteous, they find that Christians are their best subjects.

Prelude: Trinity 2 “God, My King, Thy Might Confessing”

Camille: piano - see attached in F

Noah: trumpet - hymnal in G

Anna: clarinet - hymnal in G

Trinity 216 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Camille: piano - see attached in C

Noah: trumpet - see attached in D

Anna: clarinet - see attached in D

Grace 29 “Come, Enter By the Narrow Gate”

Camille: piano

Noah: trumpet - play Trinity 627 in E

[Noah, this is an old trick - the music is actually printed in Eb, but you pretend the key signature is 4 sharps instead of 3 flats and play in E.]

Anna: sing

Grace 176 “Tis Such a Mystery, Father”

Camille: flute

Noah: sing

Anna: piano

Trinity 579 “Be Still, My Soul”

Camille: sing

Noah: trumpet

Anna: piano - transpose down

Next week prelude: Grace 1 “Across the Lands”