

- 1 **Subjection and submission...really?**
 - 1 PETER 2:13-17
 - DO WHAT?
 - WHY?
 - HOW FAR?
 - WHERE'S THE LINE?
- 2 **How should foreigners act?**
 - ▶ We are citizens of another kingdom
 - ▶ Like the Syrian refugees here in America and Europe, we are living in a country that is not the country of our birth – our spiritual birth, that is
 - ▶ So how do we live well as citizens in a foreign country?
- 3 **1 Peter 2:13-14**
 - ▶ Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.
- 4 **1 Peter 2:15-17**
 - ▶ For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.
- 5 **Who is Peter writing?**
 - ▶ *Strangers (aliens) (2:11)*
 - ▶ *Pilgrims (sojourners, travelers, visitors)*
 - ▶ People about whom the natives will speak evil (2:12)
 - ▶ People who are being watched ("...they may by your good works, which they shall behold....")
- 6 **Citizens, be under authority (2:13-17)**
 - ▶ 1 Peter 2:18 -- *Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.*
 - ▶ 1 Peter 3:1 -- *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;*
- 7 **Be a gracious authority**
 - ▶ 1 Peter 3:7-8 -- *Likewise, ye husbands, dwelt with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous*
- 8 **Areas of authority**
 - ▶ Peter mentions 3 of the 4 areas of authority

- ▶Citizens to their government (2:13-17)
- ▶Slaves to their masters (2:18 – employees to their employers -- business
- ▶Family – Wives to their husbands

9 **Pastoral authority**

- ▶Hebrews 13:7 -- *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*
- ▶Hebrews 13:17 -- *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

10 **Voluntary submission of the free**

- ▶We are free in Christ
- ▶We are to voluntarily submit to authority because by excelling at doing good, we silence the opposition to the Gospel
- ▶We are to do good in such a way that even the world acknowledges it

11 **The overlap**

- ▶We are first and foremost under the authority of Jesus Christ
 - ▶He is our King
 - ▶We are citizens of heaven (see Philippians 3)
- ▶But we live in a country that has political leaders
- ▶There is an overlap where the good we do serving Jesus is noticed by earthly authorities

12 **The tension**

- ▶2:13 -- *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;*
- ▶2:16 -- *As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.*

13 **Submit – do I *have* to?**

- ▶Hupotasso = submit / be in subjection to
 - ▶To arrange under, to subordinate;
 - ▶To subject, put in subjection;
 - ▶To subject one's self, obey;
 - ▶To submit to one's control;
 - ▶To yield to one's admonition or advice;
 - ▶To obey, be subject.
- ▶Greek military term meaning "to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader."
- ▶In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, & carrying a burden." Strong—To subordinate; reflexively--To obey.

14 **Government, really?**

15 **Every human institution**

- ▶ We have multiple “created foundations” for order

16 **Why be subject?**

The heavenly goals of earthly submission

2:13 -- *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme*

17 **1. To glorify the Lord**

- ▶ We need to demonstrate a fear of God (2:17)
- ▶ We do that by good works that benefit or honor others whom He created
- ▶ Matthew 5:16 -- *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

18 **2. To silence opposition (2:15)**

- ▶ To muzzle “senseless men of ignorance”
- ▶ Peter found it difficult to like everyone
 - ▶ Even ignorant, unthinking people could be persuaded by godly behavior
 - ▶ Or at least they will be all bark, no bite

19 **3. To win the lost (3:1-2)**

- ▶ At the start of Christianity, women who received Christ suddenly found themselves under the authority of a godless husband
- ▶ Peter encourages Christian wives that their godly voluntary submission can win their husbands to Christ

20 **4. To live a peaceable life**

- ▶ 1 Timothy 2:1-2 -- *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*
- ▶

21 **Do I have to submit ALL the time?**

BALANCING PRINCIPLES

22 **What if I don't like the authority?**

- ▶ NERO was the emperor when Peter wrote these words
 - ▶ “Although Peter & Paul both lived in the openly sinful, decadent Roman Empire—a society infamous for evil (homosexuality, infanticide, government corruption, abuse of women, immorality, violence), neither apostle offered any exemption by which believers were free to defy civil authority.” — MNTC
- ▶ BUT we must always submit to the higher authority of Scripture

23 **Can I pick and choose?**

- ▶ 1 Peter 2:14 -- *Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the*

punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

- ▶ John Calvin interpreted this that the “governors” were sent by Christ
- ▶ But in context, it is the king / emperor that sends “governors” into the kingdom with delegated authority
- ▶ In US, we must remember that government is OF the people, BY the people, and FOR the people

24 **What if a mad-man is in power?**

- ▶ 1 Timothy 2:1-2 -- *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

25 **Can you trust God anyway?**

- ▶ German soldiers burst into the house of Betsy and Corrie Ten Boom looking for Jews
- ▶ A family of Jews was hiding in a chamber under the floor beneath the dining table
- ▶ “Are there any Jews in this house?” the soldiers asked Betsy.

26 **The unexpected answer**

- ▶ Germans had no RIGHT to be there or ask the question
- ▶ Their purpose was abominable – to send Jews to death-camps
- ▶ Betsy answered, “Yes, they are hiding underneath the table.”

27 **The perceived insult**

- ▶ The soldier assumed Betsy was making fun of him and that she couldn't possibly have meant what she had just said.
- ▶ He mistakenly took it as sarcasm, which is the exact opposite of what it actually was. He became red-faced.
- ▶ He felt that if he looked under the table everybody would laugh at him. So, he turned and left the room.
- ▶ The Germans then searched the whole of the rest of the house, i.e. everywhere except under the table, but they found nothing.
- ▶ God still Rules! – no matter who the President is....

28 **Matthew 22:15-21**

Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

29 **Matthew 22:15-21 (continued)**

But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

- 30 **Obedience demonstrates love**
- ▶ John 14:21 – Our obedience to the Lord’s commandments demonstrates our love for Him and brings us into deeper fellowship with Him
 - ▶ The purpose of every non-ceremonial Law was to demonstrate love for God and others
 - ▶ Ceremonial laws pointed to Christ
- 31 **Submission does not negate liberty**
- ▶ Galatians 5:1 -- *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*
 - ▶ Galatians 5:18 -- *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*
 - ▶ Civil laws should be freely obeyed – not out of fear – but because doing so is God’s will.
- 32 **Submission does not require agreement**
- ▶ *We do not submit because we necessarily agree. We do not submit because deep within we support all the rules, codes, and regulations* – Dennis Davidson
 - ▶ We can disagree with our government, our employer, even our husband – and still voluntarily submit as long as it does not cause us to violate Scripture
- 33 **With freedom comes responsibility**
- ▶ Galatians 5:13 -- *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty;*
 - ▶ *only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, (or Peter says “a cloak of maliciousness” – a coverup for evil)*
 - ▶ *but by love serve one another.*
 - ▶ We live as free men who have chosen to be bond-slaves to Christ.
- 34 **Where do we draw the line?**
- ▶ We have inalienable rights given to us by God – life, liberty, and pursuit of economic reward (what the Founding Fathers meant by “happiness”)
- 35 **Where do we draw the line? (continued)**
- ▶ *“Civil authorities have no right to tell us what to preach, what to teach, or which philosophy to adopt as a church. If they attempt to do that, we have a right-in fact, it’s a duty-to rebel, because there is a higher law than their law, the higher law relating to the declaration of truth.”—Chuck Swindol in--‘Hope Again’ 1996*
- 36 **Giving in to evil is never spiritually correct**
- ▶ Proverbs 25:26 – *Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.*
 - ▶ Nehemiah 4:14 – *And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”*

- 37 **What happens when we MUST not submit?**
- ▶ Pray for wisdom
 - ▶ Be willing to suffer for doing right (Peter will address this situation in the next section)
 - ▶ Wait for the Spirit (Luke 12:11-12) -- *And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.*
- 38 **If we can't submit, how far can I go to oppose?**
- ▶ When we can't submit, we must still demonstrate respect secular authority.
 - ▶ *"Bombings, assassinations, harassment, and deceptive propaganda have no rightful place in pursuing biblical objectives. ...We need an attitude of extreme caution when considering acts of civil disobedience. If we take matters into our own hands, we are in effect saying that we don't think God has things under control. By resorting to unethical practices to promote our idea of a just cause, we may actually be short-circuiting how God wants to use us and others in that situation."* – RBC Ministries in *What Do We Owe the Government*
- 39 **Never forget...**
- ▶ James 1:19-20 -- *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.*
 - ▶ NOT EVER!
- 40 **Four reminders on how to treat others**
1 PETER 2:17
- 41 **1. Show respect to everyone**
- ▶ Isn't that a bit much?
 - ▶ Maybe easier said than done
 - ▶
 - ▶
 - ▶ We must remember that every person is a special creation of God – even if they fail to honor Him.
 - ▶ And how can we win the lost if we fail to treat them with respect?
- 42 **2. Love the brethren**
- ▶ How a lady nearly preached me to death
 - ▶ We are in a family together
 - ▶ That is why Baptists refer to one another as "brother" or "sister"
 - ▶ The world knows we are followers of Christ by our love for one another
 - ▶ What happened when Emily came here
- 43 **3. Fear God**
- ▶ The word used here does not mean to be in terror
 - ▶ Rather, it means to be in awe and reverence that leads us to obedience

- ▶ You will never be able to respect people until you reverence the God who created them
- ▶ Just look at the theology of those who murder and assault people or kill unborn children

44 **4. Honor the king / emperor**

- ▶ At the time Peter was writing, it was a wicked Roman emperor
- ▶ Same root word for honor used at beginning of verse when we are told to respect others
 - ▶ Even if we didn't like Obama and are no fans of Trump, we still needed to show respect in their presence and call them "Mr. President" and show appropriate decorum
- ▶ And we should pray for the king / President (1 Timothy 2:1)