

I Peter 2:13-17

Living Godly under Civil Authority

- > What response are we to have to the laws imposed by our government (vv. 13-14)? Submit to them (obey the laws).
- > What reasons are given for this in verse 15? It is God's will for us to do so, and it prevents people from finding fault with us.
- > What commands from verse 17 expand Paul's explanation on how we should show submission? We are to honor all people, love others believers, fear God, and honor kings/rulers.

Application

The idea of submitting to civil authority is rooted in the fact that government officials are in their position by God's sovereign hand. Read Romans 13:1-7 and Titus 3:1-2. Note:

- We are to obey the laws at all cost: no matter where you live, no matter which type of government is in place, no matter if you like or dislike the laws or the people in charge, we are told to submit!
- What if the laws go against commands in God's Word? Examples of this are seen in Scripture. Take Peter for instance. When he was forbidden to preach the gospel (Acts 4:18-20), notice his response in Acts 5:27-29. Peter put obedience to God first, but even then he still showed honor and respect to the government.

Those in government may not always be right, nor do what we believe is best. There may be times we do not believe they deserve our submission. Regardless, we are told to submit for the Lord's sake. Our submission is a matter of obedience to God. Failure in this area only embarrasses Christians, opening us up to criticism. Submission, however, results in attitudes and actions that bring glory to God (remember I Peter 1:12)!

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