

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION – A LIVING HOPE – STUDY OF I PETER**  
**Week 4 - Submission to Authority**

**I Pet 2.13-3.7**

**I Pet 2.13-17** - <sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. <sup>16</sup> Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.<sup>1</sup>

**Bible Truth:** God call us to willingly yield to authority in our relationships as a function of our obedience to God, even when those in authority are mistreating us

**Purpose:** It is critical for us as Christians to establish and maintain an obedient state to our civil government

**1 Peter 2:13-3:7 (NIV)**

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## 1. Scenario that Peter addressing

- Christians now perceived as threat – dangerous to the state
- Community saw them as rebellious factions looking to overthrow society
- Critical for Peter to establish measure of obedience to the civil government

## 2. Meaning of Submission

- << *Hypotassomenai* >> - literally means moving under authority – submitting to recognized Authority
- Military term that means placing under rank – executive officer
- Submission has to do with order and authority NOT evaluation

## 3. Submission to Rulers (i.e. Government) – 2.13-17

### **1 Peter 2:13-17 (NIV)**

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- V. 13 submit – start by understanding that authority is legitimate and our required duty is submission – loyalty and reverence
- “every authority instituted among men” – literally every creation of man – means laws, structures, method of government, constitutions, etc. - People in power are human institution - We are to be governed by the laws and constitution of that country
- Principle of Civil Obedience
  - Dan 1
  - Peter / Paul before the Sanhedrin – Acts 4.19 – “judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you or God – we cannot help speaking of what we have seen and heard”
  - Peter before the Sanhedrin again – Acts 5.29 – we must obey God rather than man
- Reasons why -
  - **Order of God** – “For the Lord’s Sake” – God has ordained government for our good (see Rom 13)
  - **Means of God** - The end use of govt – v. 14 – punish those who do wrong and commending those who do right
  - **Will of God** – because it silences ignorant talk of foolish man – wins people to Christ and brings glory to God
- V. 16 – live as free men - Peter Reminds them of spiritual nature of their liberty – OT Jews didn’t think they had to obey any sovereigns unless taken from one of their own – converted Jews thought that because of their relationship to Jesus they didn’t have to be subject to any rule / rulers
  - free from sin, Satan and his dominion, death, ceremonial law and condemnation, wrath of God, ---- not free from obedience to God’s laws – must not be a cover for any sin or civil disobedience
- V. 17 – 4 practical steps to show that we are submissive to God –
  - Show proper respect to everyone NIV // NAS – treat all people with honor – even the poor, even the homeless, even the admins
  - Love the brotherhood of believers – fellowship
  - Fear God – highest reverence / awe
  - Honor the king

#### 4. Submission to masters (i.e. bosses) – 2.18-20

##### **1 Peter 2:18-20 (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. <sup>19</sup> For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. <sup>20</sup> But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.<sup>1</sup>

- V. 18 submit –
- “with all respect” – means do your business faithfully and honestly – fully discharge your duties
- “not only those that are good but to those that are harsh” – sinful nature of the boss does NOT justify sinful reaction by the employee
  - “harsh” - << **skolios** >> - curved, bent, not straight - scoliosis
- Principal of punishment

#### 5. Christ’s Example – 2.21-25

##### **1 Peter 2:21-25 (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.<sup>1</sup>

- Suffered without having sinned / Never retaliated / Never threatened or invoked His God given right to avenge
- Trusted wholly in God the Father
- V.25 – sheep going astray – sheep – returned – passive – function of God
- Fruit of Christ’s sufferings – sanctification and justification

## 6. Wives and husbands – 3.1-7

### **1 Peter 3:1-7 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, <sup>2</sup> when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. <sup>3</sup> Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. <sup>4</sup> Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. <sup>5</sup> For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup> like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. <sup>7</sup> Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.<sup>i</sup>

- Context – newly converted wives walking away from their husbands both Jewish and secular – win over your non-Christian spouses – without speeches or words - nagging
- God's natural order – Gen 3.16 – every relationship has duties and responsibilities – cheerful subjection and loving reverential respect
- V. 3-4 – outward dress should be consistent with our testimony – should not be primary focus or majority of our investment – NAS – “merely”
- “adornment” – cosmos – universe – cosmetics – opposite of chaos
- V. 7 – Husbands – physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual

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Conclusion:

God's requirement for obedience (submission) to all civil authority  
God's requirement for obedience (submission) to all our bosses  
God's order in marriage and our responsibility to fulfill it

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<sup>i</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984