

☞ **1 Peter** (opening slide)

Review: God has offered us the deal of the ages! Since we have received such a great deal from God in salvation, we should be motivated to change. We should think differently, behave differently, and live differently. Peter says that because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are peculiar people. We are spiritual; we are set-apart; we are strangers in this world. Don't be surprised if people think you're unusual because of your faith. You are!

☞ **Attitudes toward Authority**

1 Peter 2:13-25

Here's a quick one word summary of the proper attitude we should have toward

☞ authorities: **submit**.

v. 13 submit yourself

Submit = to place under; to obey the directives of someone

Every authority = all; without exception

This can get people worked up a bit... does this mean we go along even when the authority is unjust and sometimes, outright evil?

-- The Bible Exposition Commentary... This does not refer to each individual law, but to the institutions that make and enforce the laws. It is possible to submit to the institutions and still disobey the laws. For example, when Daniel and his three friends refused to obey the king's dietary regulations, they disobeyed the law; but the way that they did it proved that they honored the king and respected the authorities (Daniel 1). They were not rebels; they were careful not to embarrass the official in charge or get him into trouble; and yet they stood their ground. They glorified God and, at the same time, honored the authority of the king.

☞ **v. 14 authorities are sent by God**

Romans 13:1

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Titus 3:1-2

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, **2** to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

Ephesians 5:21 (*submission is a basic Christian ideal*)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

v. 15 this is God's will; submission seems to equated to doing good; this results in silencing ignorant talk

Christians experienced freedom in Christ and some took that to mean that Christians were anarchists who despised any governing authorities. As well, Christians talked about being citizens of another kingdom, and some misunderstood what that really meant. We still face some of those kinds of accusations today, therefore, we need to be careful how we relate to our government.

 **v. 16 we are free, but ultimately, we are servants of God
He gives freedom, but not for a cover-up for evil**

Servant = slave; one who is in complete submission to another.

The freedom the bible focuses on is the freedom from sin. It's not the kind of freedom we Americans think about and so passionately cherish. There is nothing wrong with that, but it's not the primary focus of the Bible when talking about freedom.

Romans 6:18

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Galatians 5:13

...do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

We are free in Christ, but freedom doesn't mean we don't have to obey the laws of society. And, it's certainly not freedom that we can use to indulge our sinful nature. So, yes, we are free, but we are still to have an attitude of submission to authority. After all, we are slaves of God.

 **v. 17 show proper respect to everyone**

Here is another basic ideal for Christians... be respectful. Even when you disagree with someone, show respect.

Love the family of God

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Sometimes people will say they love God, but they don't really want to have anything to do with Christians. But the Bible says these two go hand in hand.

1 John 4:20

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar.

Fear God

Psalms 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

Here is yet another fundamental for Christians. Proper respect and reverence for God sets us on the right track for so many things.

2 Corinthians 7:1

let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Honor the king

--Matthew Henry sums these ideas up... A due respect is to be given to all men; the poor are not to be despised; the wicked must be respected, not for their wickedness, but for any other qualities they might have. Abraham, Jacob, Samuel, the prophets, and the apostles, never scrupled to give due honor to bad men. Love the brotherhood. All Christians are united to Christ the head, related in the same interest, having communion one with another, and going to the same home; they should therefore love one another with special affection. Fear God with the highest reverence, duty, and submission; if this be lacking, none of the other three duties can be performed as they ought. Honor the king with the highest honor that is due to him above other men.

v. 18 slaves, submit to masters with all respect

Ephesians 6:5-8

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. **6** Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. **7** Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, **8** because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

This applies to the workplace in our day and culture. We are to be submissive to those who are over us, whether they are kind or unkind to us. Christian employees must never  take advantage of employers. Each worker should **do a good day's work** and honestly earn his pay. Of course, the human tendency is to fight back and to demand our rights. Anybody can fight back; it takes a Spirit-filled Christian to submit and let God fight his battles. Now, there are proper channels of recourse in most work situations and it's ok to use those if warranted. But even then it should be in a respectful manner.

The sinful misconduct of one person does not justify the sinful behavior of the other.

v. 19-20 it is commendable to endure unjust suffering

1 Peter 3:14

if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.

Luke 6:27-35

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you...**32**"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that... **35** But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

v. 21 Christ set the example in this

He was completely righteous, yet suffered for it. How did he handle it?

Philippians 2:5-8

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, **7** but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

1 John 2:6

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

v. 22 He was innocent

v. 23 He didn't retaliate or threaten; instead, he trusted God

v. 24 He bore our sins

He took it; he willingly suffered; all for our benefit. Sometimes, when we are mistreated  for being Christians, we need to just take it. **Our behavior can have an effect on a person's eternity.**

So we can die to sins; live for righteousness

 Jesus made it possible for us to be truly free. **True freedom** does not mean anarchy and rebellion, but it means **freedom from sin**. Ultimate freedom is actually found in submission to God.

Romans 6:11

Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

We are healed by his wounds

We believe in physical healing, but in this context, it's primarily talking about spiritual healing. We are saved from sins because of his sacrifice on the cross.

Because he was willing to submit even to the point of death, we are healed. We have received salvation because Jesus was submissive. He is our example of submission to authority.

v. 25 we were like wayward sheep, but now we have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls

It might seem like freedom for a sheep to escape from the pen. But think about it. Now, the sheep is on its own. It has no one to look out for it and protect it. It has to be

constantly on edge, worried about predators. Contrast the sheep in the pen. Yes, they may have some restrictions, but they also have a shepherd who is on guard for them. He protects them from predators and provides for their every need. Which is better? You might think you're tough and can take care of yourself, so you don't need anybody else. But the Bible says we are like sheep. Completely helpless and defenseless. We definitely 🗨️ need someone looking out for us. **We need the Shepherd.**

John 10:5

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:14

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

Sheep submit to the Shepherd and they are better off for it.

🗨️ So, the basic teaching of this section is **submission**. Ultimately, we are **slaves to God** and we **submit to him**. We are free, but not from authority. We are **free from sin** and its penalties. We are still supposed to be **subject to authorities** and **show proper respect** to everyone. It's what Jesus did, and we are to follow his example. And, as sheep in his flock, it's the safest, best thing for us to do.

Next week – Easter with special music and videos

Two weeks – Marriage Matters with Naomi