

1st Peter

Christian Life Assembly

Fall 2014

Jim Hoffman



1st Peter 2:13-23

- **Today we will look at what Peter tells his exiled Jewish audience about living as strangers and aliens in a foreign culture.**
 - **He will speak of obeying the governmental authorities and of how to endure unjust suffering.**
 - **It is not uncommon for governmental authorities and unjust suffering to be linked in history and in scripture.**
 - **In both circumstances, we have the opportunity to make much of God.**
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1st Peter 2:13-17

- **13 For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, 14 or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. 15 It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 16 For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. 17 Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.**
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- **Christians should resist a government that commands or compels evil and should work nonviolently within the laws of the land to change a government that permits evil.**
 - **Civil disobedience is permitted when the government's laws or commands are in direct violation of God's laws and commands.**
 - **If a Christian disobeys an evil government, unless he can flee from the government, he should accept that government's punishment for his actions.**
 - **Christians are certainly permitted to work to install new government leaders within the laws that have been established.**
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1st Peter 2:13-17

- The first words of verse #13 set the tone for what we are being asked to do, “Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake”.
 - I suspect this is no less necessary for us than it was for Peter’s audience – this can be a very hard message.
 - In America, during our lifetimes, we are witnessing sweeping changes to our culture and it is hard to take.
 - But, we must remember that we are also called to submit to the powers that are appointed over us.
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1st Peter 2:13-17

- **We actually belong to two kingdoms – one is the earthly nation in which we live, and the other is the kingdom of God.**
 - **Each has it's own set of rules and reasons for them.**
 - **Perhaps our best strategy is to be so focused on our position in God's kingdom, that cooperating with the earthly kingdom becomes a little more natural and little less annoying.**
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1st Peter 2:13-17

- The two kingdoms are not equal.
 - Both impact us greatly on an everyday basis.
 - For His own purposes, God has asked us to live with this unique sort of dual citizenship status on foreign soil.
 - 1st Peter 2:9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.
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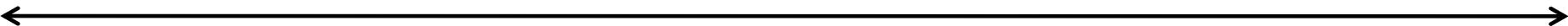
1st Peter 2:13-17

- **In a very real sense our obedience to governmental authorities becomes a tribute to our God.**
 - **Verse #14 speaks of the authorities as being sent by God to punish evil and honor those who do right – we then compare that to what is happening and scratch our heads.**
 - **Bear in mind that God's purpose for human government (in verse #14), and what government actually does may not be in harmony.**
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1st Peter 2:13-17

- **The result of our compliance and obedience to human government is very much in line with our primary mission and purpose in this life – *to honor God.***
- **When we submit to authorities for the purposes of obeying and showing allegiance to our King, the accusations of those opposed to us will be muted.**
- **Verse #15 - It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.**





1st Peter 2:13-17

- **In the end we are to be free from all others, but slaves to God.**
 - **I may not agree with my government, and I may not want to obey its decrees, but if my real King calls for me to obey then I must.**
 - **Verse #16 For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. 17 Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.**
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Questions

