

Series: Aliens & Sojourners—1 Peter **Text:** 1 Pet. 2:13–17

Title: Submission to God, Submission to Government **Date:** December 14, 2025

Lesson: 10

The thesis:

1 Pet. 2:11–12 – Beloved, I urge you as aliens and [sojourners] to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. ¹²[by keeping] your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

What does living righteously out in the world look like?

One of the greatest ways true, Christian character shows itself is in *willing* _____ to others.

1 Pet. 2:13 – **Submit yourselves** for the Lord's sake to every human institution...

1 Pet. 2:18 – Servants, **be submissive** to your masters with all respect...

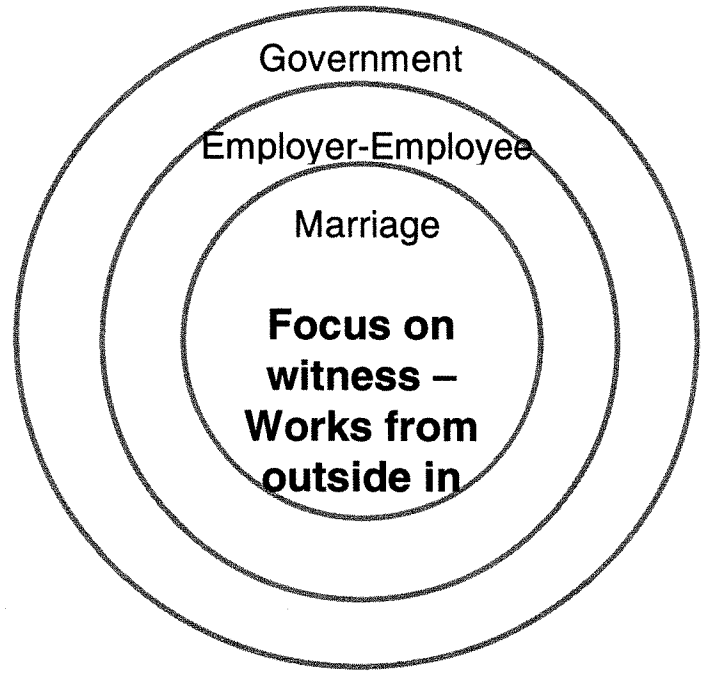
1 Pet. 2:21 – ...Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example** for you to follow in His steps

1 Pet. 3:1 – In the same way, you wives, **be submissive** to your own husbands...

Eph. 5–6



1 Pet. 2–3



I. The Command (vv13–14)

- ‘Governors’ covers all different kinds of governing authorities.
 1. We’re supposed to recognize delegated authority as just as legitimate as the one who sends it.
 2. We’re supposed to submit to *all* levels of government.
- Human government has two main functions:
 1. Punishing evil
 2. Rewarding good

What happens when government is not fulfilling what God says it should do?

Rom. 13:1–2 – Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

If we resist government authority, we resist _____.

II. The Reason (v15)

- This is an application of the command to ‘keep our behavior excellent’ out in the world.
- This is why we submit ourselves ‘for the Lord’s sake.’

The world is suspicious of Christians when we place our faith in Christ instead of in _____.

Christians are called to be the ideal citizens in every way possible (that doesn’t go against our faith) so that the faith is honored.

III. The Bigger Picture (v16)

- The freedom we have is meant to be used to love another, not indulge our flesh.

Gal. 5:13–14 – For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

- We're always slaves to *something* (cf. Rom. 6:15–23), so even though we're not under the power of the world system, we're still slaves to God.
- Submission is something we do ourselves, not something done *to* us.

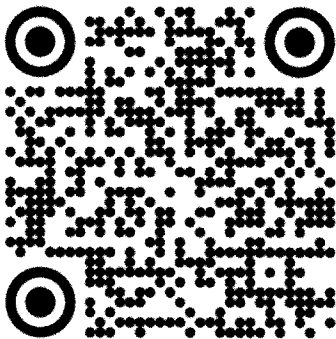
**Liberty in Christ means freedom from obligation to earthly powers but obligation to God instead Who wants us to _____
_____ under that authority for His sake
(cf. Matt. 17:24–27; 2 Cor. 5:20).**

What do we do with this text?

1. Don't make Christianity more complicated than it is by trying to explain away _____ teachings (cf. 1 Pet. 2:17).
2. Christian submission to government should be _____
to the world, no matter where they are coming from politically.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What's the difference between service and submission? What are some areas where God is leading you to submit to others who don't have direct authority of some kind over you?
2. What do you think submission to governing authorities means in your life? Can you defend that biblically?
3. What does it look like to exercise the freedoms we have in a democratic republic in a way that is still submissive to the government?
4. What might be different if you submitted to government because you thought you owed it to the government instead of owing it to God?
5. What are some ways you can be obviously submitting to governing authorities that would help your witness with your family, in your community, on social media, etc.?



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Blanks: submission, God, human government, put ourselves, inconvenient, obvious