



## "How to Live Faithful Lives In a World That Doesn't Understand"

September 21, 2025

**The Big Idea:** A part of living life as a citizen of God's Kingdom is being so **honorable** in our lifestyle and dealings that people are **drawn** to our God. One of the primary ways the Lord transforms rebellious hearts is to teach us to **submit** to earthly authority. We can almost think of it as training for submission to the Lord.

### 1 Peter 2:11-17 (ESV)

**2** <sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as **sojourners** and **exiles** to **abstain** from the **passions of the flesh**, which **wage war against your soul**.

<sup>12</sup> **Keep your conduct** among the Gentiles **honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may **see** your good deeds and **glorify God** on the **day of visitation**.

<sup>13</sup> **Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution**, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him **to punish those who do evil** and **to praise those who do good**.

<sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that **by doing good** you should **put to silence** the ignorance of foolish people.

### What Faithful Living Looks Like

1. We remember that our first **loyalty** is to the Lord and His desires for us. [v.11]
2. We resist the selfish and sinful passions which seek my **destruction**. [v.11]
3. We never forget what is at **stake** as people without Christ are watching our lives. [v.12]
4. We learn to be **submissive**, knowing that is one of the most important disciplines of a Christian. [v.13-14]
5. We understand that the Lord **establishes** authority calls His people to recognize and respect those in authority.
6. We do God's will by doing good, knowing that **silences** unjust criticisms. [v.15]

<sup>16</sup> **Live as people who are free**, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as **servants** of God.

7. Live as free people, but in all things remember we serve the Lord and are **accountable** to Him. [v.16]

<sup>17</sup> **Honor** everyone. **Love** [agape] the brotherhood. **Fear** God. **Honor** the emperor.

8. Live by the "Christian Exile's Motto" of 1 Peter 2:17

- \* Everyone is honored
- \* Brothers and sisters in Christ are treasured and loved
- \* Never loose sight of the holiness, goodness, and authority of our King
- \* Rulers are respected, even if they do and believe despicable things.

### KEY PRINCIPLES TO UNDERSTAND:

1. Authority structures were put in place by God. All legitimate authority is **derived** from God.
2. All of us are both **in** authority and **under** authority.
3. God uses uncomfortable situations that call for our submission in order to teach us to trust and submit fully to **Him**.
4. Submission is an **attitude** of my **heart**. Submission is not the same as blind obedience to evil authority. If you find yourself under evil authority, do what you can to change it. Seek to remedy injustices. Just be prepared to pay the price of going against authority.
5. As Believers and as the Church, we must **never trade** our spiritual relationship and spiritual weapons for earthly and political ones. We are transformed through our own submission to Christ. The world is transformed, not by a political or social crusade, but by one person at a time coming to Jesus and seeing what He did on the Cross, on our behalf!
6. My rebel heart will only be redeemed when I submit it to the authority and **rule** of **Christ** in my life. Rebellion against earthly authority indicates a problem with full submission to God's authority.

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*The greatest freedom is not the freedom to do as you like,  
but the freedom to do as you ought!  
Only in Christ, can you have that kind of freedom.*

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