

Stand Firm Counter-Cultural Submission

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Based on the "We Stand Firm" Series
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Opening Prayer

- Pray for open hearts to understand and embrace biblical submission as an act of trust in God rather than weakness.
- Ask God to help us see areas in our lives where we can leave space for Him to move instead of reacting in our own strength.

Ice Breaker

If you could choose one "uncomfortable but necessary" part of life right now (like a long plane ride, a tough job season, or a challenging relationship), what would it be and why?

Key Scripture

1 Peter 2:13 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor as the supreme authority...

Sermon Summary

Peter urges believers, as exiles in a world that's not our home, to live out our true identity through counter-cultural submission to human authorities. This isn't about blind obedience but willingly placing ourselves under others because of our trust in the Lord, following Christ's example of enduring injustice without retaliation. By doing good and honoring others, we silence critics, leave room for God to act, and point people toward Him—even in unfair situations.

Discussion Point 1: Submission as a Choice Because of the Lord

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:13-17 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor as the supreme authority or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good. For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God's slaves. Honor everyone. Love the brothers and sisters. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.

Point Summary: Peter calls us to submit willingly—not because culture forces it, but because of the Lord. This counter-cultural choice silences foolish criticism through honorable living and good deeds. We honor everyone while fearing God above all, trusting Him in unjust situations rather than rebelling or retaliating.

Discussion Questions:

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word "submit"? How has culture or past experiences shaped your view of it, and how does Peter's teaching challenge that?
2. In what areas of life (government, work, community) is it hardest for you to "honor everyone" while still fearing God? How might leaving space for God to move change your response?

Discussion Point 2: Enduring Unjust Treatment Like Christ

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:21-23 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth; when he was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

Point Summary: Christ is our ultimate example—He endured injustice without sin, retaliation, or threats, entrusting Himself to God's just judgment. We're called to follow His steps, leaving space for God to work instead of filling unfair moments with our own defense or anger. This frees us to love others even when mistreated.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think of a time you faced unfair treatment (at work, in a relationship, or elsewhere). How did you respond, and looking back, how might entrusting it to God have looked different?
2. Why do you think Peter emphasizes Christ's non-retaliatory response? How does this connect to our identity as God's people who have received mercy?

Discussion Point 3: A Submissive Spirit in Modern Relationships (Work, Authority, etc.)

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:18-20 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Household slaves, submit to your masters with all reverence not only to the good and gentle ones but also to the cruel. For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.

Point Summary: Peter applies submission even to harsh or unjust authorities (like cruel masters in his day, or difficult bosses today), urging us to endure unjust suffering with a God-conscious heart. This doesn't mean accepting abuse or unethical demands, but honoring obligations, setting healthy boundaries where needed, and responding with goodness. Our submissive spirit can honor God and potentially soften even hard hearts.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does submission to an employer or authority figure look in our modern context? What are some practical ways to fulfill obligations while protecting against being taken advantage of?
2. Share (if comfortable) a situation where enduring unjustly with a Christ-like attitude made a difference—either in your heart or in someone else's view of Jesus.

Wrap-Up

Peter reminds us as exiles that our lives are temporary, often uncomfortable, but necessary as we head toward our true home. By standing firm in counter-cultural submission—choosing to honor authorities, endure injustice like Christ, and entrust ourselves to God's just judgment—we live out our identity and point others to Him. **1 Peter 2:13** anchors this: we submit because of the Lord, silencing critics through good works and leaving space for God to move.

Challenge

This week, identify one area where you face authority or potential injustice (a boss, a rule, a difficult relationship). Commit to responding with a submissive spirit: pray before reacting, choose honor over retaliation, and entrust the outcome to God. If you're part of our current series, reflect on how this fits into standing firm in 1 Peter—maybe journal one way you'll leave space for God this week.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God for Christ's example of perfect submission and entrustment during suffering.
- Pray for strength to choose submission willingly in our daily lives, especially where it's counter-cultural.
- Ask God to use our honorable responses to draw others to Him and to work in any unjust situations we're facing.