



***Equipped for the Inevitable  
“Antidote to Anarchy”***

**1 Peter 2:13-21a**

There is a lot of dissatisfaction with our government today. Much, if not all of it, stems from a misunderstanding about the role of government and who is ultimately in charge of allowing politicians to hold office. The ignorance of human government’s role is fueled by a postmodern mindset of entitlement. This mindset is generated from a complete self-centeredness and an attitude of self as the authority of one’s life.

As citizens of heaven, Christians submit wholly to divine authority. The potential misapplication of this truth is that we can become indifferent and even hateful toward the world in which we live. As a result, we forfeit the many opportunities for a positive impact on our society.

Peter provides us some imperatives of the “how to” when it comes to submission to government and its authority over our lives. With so much protest and hatred being propagated today - against government, law enforcement, and those who hold an opposite view - it is imperative for believers to be anchored in the truth of what Scripture teaches about the authority God has placed over us.

***1) Christians are commanded to submit to authority. (1 Peter 2:13a)***

Although we are not ultimately under human authority, God still expects us to submit to human institutions He ordained. He wants His people to demonstrate godly character qualities and a genuine concern to society - a concern that seeks peace and desires to prevent trouble and crime. To that end, it is vital for Christians to obey the rule of law and respect all authority - unless we are told to do something God forbids or to not do something He commands.

***2) Christians must have the right motive for submitting to all levels of human authority. (1 Peter 2:13b-14)***

Peter makes this one obvious for us - it is **for the Lord’s sake**. This makes it obligatory on our part to submit as with all divine commands. When we obey earthly authority, we honor God’s sovereign authority.

**3) Christians must have the right attitude for submitting to authority. (1 Peter 2:15-16)**

There is a very good and eternal reason for submitting to authority. Christians ought to submit to every authority because **it is the will of God** with purpose **that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.**

**4) Christians must make the right application for submitting to authority. (1 Peter 2:17-20)**

Peter summarizes his instruction for submission to authority into four practical dimensions:

First, believers are to **honor all men**. Every person was created in the image of God and therefore is due some degree of respect. Christians are not to discriminate against any class of people because of race, nationality, or economic status. (*cf. James 2:1-9*)

This does not mean we ignore different levels of authority and social structure or that we engage in mindless tolerance for everyone's conduct. However, it does mean we show proper respect for people because they are made in God's image.

Second, believers are to **love the brotherhood**. We are commanded to love God's people. John instructed the churches, ***"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him."*** (1 John 5:1)

Third, believers are to **fear God**. We are to trust God in all circumstances no matter how difficult they may be. Human government, especially for the believers Peter was writing to, was indeed very difficult and hostile toward them.

Finally, believers are to **honor the king**. This brings the issue full circle, back to the basic command of verse 13. When we obey the principle of this passage, it gives genuine credibility to our faith. It is the opportunity we have to live our lives in a manner that glorifies God and aligns with Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. (*cf. Matthew 5:14-16*)

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