

GOVERNMENT



1 Peter 2:13-17, ESV – ¹³Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of June 28, 2020

1 Peter 2:13-17

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend, we were reminded to honor God by submitting to earthly authorities, doing good in our community, and using our freedom to be His slave. Which of these do you find easy to do? Which of these do you find difficult to do? Explain.

2 Peter summarizes his thoughts in verse 17, "Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor." Practically speaking, what does this look like in everyday life?

3 Looking at the six points of Edwards' theology of public life for the Christian, which one do you think the church, in general, is doing well? Which one is the church not doing well? What practical things can we do in these six areas to be better witnesses in our community?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Matthew 17:24-27, ESV** – ²⁴ When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the tax?" ²⁵ He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?" ²⁶ And when he said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. ²⁷ However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself."

4 In what ways are Christians "free"? What are we to do with our freedom?

5 Give a practical example of how Christians should not insist on their rights when it would offend others. How does this passage show that our motives for doing something are important?

6 What lessons did Peter learn from Jesus during this encounter? How do those lessons apply to today?

B ***Romans 13:1-7, ESV** – Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.*

7 From where are the earthly authorities established? What are the consequences of rebelling against authorities?

8 According to verse 4, who are the earthly authorities? For what reasons should you submit to the authorities?

9 How can you apply these verse on authorities in your own life?

TAKING IT HOME

Reread 1 Peter 2:17. How can you best apply this verse to your life? What changes need to be made in your life to be the example that we are called to be in this area? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is laying on your heart and pray that you will choose rightly in your daily activities.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 139:23-24