

Church and State

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1 PETER 2:13-25

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In today's world we have a big divide in our nation politically. In many of the political fights there is one side that is distinctly Christian. However, Christians do not win every election and are often put in situations where they do not believe in the laws that are being enforced. In light of 1 Peter chapter 2, how are we to conduct ourselves when the government is telling us one thing and it does not perfectly line up with our Biblical beliefs? 1 Peter 2:17 says to "...Fear God, honor the King." What do we do when these two things contradict each other? Our study of 1 Peter will start to shed some light on the Christians responsibility to honor the government and glorify God at the same ti



🕒 EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read I Peter 2:13-25 (NET)

¹³ Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether to a king as supreme

¹⁴ or to governors as those he commissions to punish wrongdoers and praise those who do good.

¹⁵ For God wants you to silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good.

¹⁶ Live as free people, not using your freedom as a pretext for evil, but as God's slaves.

¹⁷ Honor all people, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the king.

¹⁸ Slaves, be subject to your masters with all reverence, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are perverse.

¹⁹ For this finds God's favor, if because of conscience toward God someone endures hardships in suffering unjustly.

²⁰ For what credit is it if you sin and are mistreated and endure it? But if you do good and suffer and so endure, this finds favor with God.

²¹ For to this you were called, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving an example for you to follow in his steps.

²² He *committed no sin nor was deceit found in his mouth*.

²³ When he was maligned, he did not answer back; when he suffered, he threatened no retaliation, but committed himself to God who judges justly.

²⁴ He *himself bore our sins* in his body on the tree, that we may cease from sinning and live for righteousness. *By his wounds you were healed*.

²⁵ For you were *going astray like sheep* but now you have turned back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

🕒 EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. Should we be obedient to government leaders that are not Christians?

2. What advantage is there in obedience when we are going to suffer for it?

3. Is it ever good to rebel against the government? If so when?

4. What is the difference between outright rebellion and campaigning for new leaders? Where does protesting fit in?

5. What are some examples of Jesus' interaction with government officials? How does He set the example for us?

6. The punishment Jesus bore on the cross is talked about in the last part of chapter 2. What example does He give when it comes to unjust suffering?

7. How are we instructed to conduct ourselves in the face of unjust suffering?

8. Who stands to benefit if we maintain the proper conduct during unjust suffering?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES