

Lunch Time Bible Study
God's Holy Nation
A Study of 1&2 Peter: "The Uncomfortable Duty"
1 Peter 2:13-25

September 26, 2017

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or the governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. (1 Peter 2:13-14)

I. Make the Master Proud

- a. In ancient times, Christians were often accused of troublemaking or treason based on our belief that there is only One True and Living God.
- b. Peter teaches that you can live out your faith in this world while respecting authority. The emphasis is on the activity of *submission*. Think of the word *cooperation*.
 1. Submission does not mean slavery or subjugation. It recognizes God's authority in our lives.
- c. Home, human government, and the Church are authorities that God established for orderly living.
- d. There is freedom in submission. (a child who obeys, the Prodigal Son)
- e. We are called to be "good citizens" on earth while knowing our "real" citizenship is in heaven.
- f. Be subject to punishment and praise of civic leadership. (v.13)
- g. This is our righteous calling..."We are called to live godly in a godless world."

II. Be a Good Witness for the Lord's Sake

- a. Be good to those who are not good to you. (Luke 6:22)
- b. As Christians in society we are representatives of Jesus Christ. It is our responsibility to advertise God's virtues and values.
- c. Submission also does not refer to each individual law, but to the institution that make/enforce it.
 1. Daniel and his three friends refused to obey the king's dietary law, but David honored the king.
 2. Peter refused obey the Jewish council, but they did not cause a rebellion. (Acts 4:19;5:29)
- d. If we are sincerely submitted to authority "for the Lord's sake", we will show honor to all who deserve it. *Honor everyone, love Christians, fear God, honor the emperor.*
- e. It is important that we respect the office even though we may not respect the person in the office.
 1. We can cooperate without compromising God's Word.
- f. It is true that we are not of this world and it is also equally true we are not above the law.
 1. For example a church and building codes. The Branch Davidians.
- g. We use our freedom for the sake of others as a tool to build, not as a weapon to fight. (Nehemiah)

III. Be a Good Witness for Your Own Sake

- a. There are no "N.T. slaves today, but we are to be submissive to those who are over us.
- b. Christian employees should not take advantage of Christian employers.
- c. Sometimes a Christian employee might be taken advantage of by an unsaved supervisor.
 1. *...be good and gentle...also to the unjust.* (Read Matthew 5:10-12)
- d. Anybody can "take it" when they are in the wrong. It takes a dedicated Christian to "take it" when they are in the right.
- e. In the Bible, "duty" is always connected to "doctrine." Christian character should shine in the midst of darkness and despair.

IV. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Are there times when Christians should not obey man-made institutions? Explain.
- b. God's church has been able to live and grow in all kinds of political systems. We actually thrive under persecution. A word on free speech and assembly.
- c. There is no "middle ground" with Christ, but there is love, kindness and respect.
- d. Jesus proved that a person could be in the will of God, be loved by God, and still suffer unjustly.