

Refuge City Church — January 31, 2021 “Hope-Filled Life” (1 Peter 2:13-25)

Introduction/Reminder

- We've spent a chapter and a half discussing our call to walk in the Hope of our salvation, and to pursue holiness according to God's Word.
- **REMINDER:** Who is Peter writing to, and what was their cultural surrounding?
 - Christians living in a non-Christian world.
 - **QUOTE:** “We live in the midst of a pagan culture, surrounded by pagan people, who embrace a pagan philosophy, a pagan way of life, and a pagan attitude toward believers.” [Chuck Swindoll]
 - Knowing that, we've been asking the question, “How should we then live?”

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. **12** Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Scripture Reading (1 Peter 2:13-25)

13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, **14** or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. **15** For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. **17** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. **18** Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. **19** For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. **20** For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. **21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. **23** When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. **25** For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

God over Government

- Submission to *every* human institution
 - We are subject to, and are to take a submissive role.
 - Submission = rank under, subordinate to, obedience. **[boss/supervisor, coach, teacher, etc.]**
 - This includes the Federal, State, County, City, and all others.

- **QUOTE:** “We should do this **[submit]**, not because these individuals are personally worthy of our submission necessarily, but ‘for the Lord's sake,’ because by submitting to them, we *honor* God by obeying His Word.” [Charles Bigg]
 - **Romans 13:1**, “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.”
 - **1 Timothy 2:1-2**, “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”
 - Our role and responsibility when it comes to those who govern over us: Submission and Prayer.
- **[vs. 15]** “For this is the will of God” = do good
- **Jeremiah 15:11**, “Surely I will set you free for purposes of good.”
 - The duality of freedom for Christians who live in free societies.
 1. Spiritually, we are set free from sin by God’s grace and mercy.
 - We are spiritually free from having to do anything to earn His grace.
 - We are set free from the grip of Satan’s power and control over our life.
 - **John 8:32,36**, “and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
 - **Galatians 5:1,13**, “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”
 - **REMEMBER:** You’re set free FROM sin, not free TO sin.
 2. Politically and Culturally, we are free.
 - Neither are we under tyrannical dictatorship, nor are we absolutely free [anarchy].
 - **QUOTE:** “Liberty misused is like a mighty river flooding its banks and bringing terrible destruction upon all in its path. Liberty used as service is like a mighty river flowing within its banks bringing life and refreshment to all who drink of its waters.” [Paul Cedar]
 - **Civil Disobedience:** When is it justified?
 - Any law, declaration, or requirement given that would require a follower of Jesus to deny or disobey God’s Word.
 - If it is illegal to obey God, we must then disobey the established authority.
 - Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not eating the king’s food **[Daniel 1]**
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not bowing down to the golden image **[Daniel 3]**
 - Daniel found faithful as high official in King Darius’ kingdom **[Daniel 6]**
 - This is why we must pursue God’s righteousness first, stand on His Word, so we don’t confuse holiness for zealous disobedience.

- Ex: “You can not gather, sing, or mention the name of Jesus.”
- Ex: “I don’t like their politics, so I don’t have to obey them.”
- Your political party affiliation does not determine your obedience.

- **[vs. 17] “Honor Everyone”** = Can we rightly do this to those who are blatantly disobedient to God, and/or hold a character unbecoming of one in authority... YES.
 1. Because God tells us to.
 2. We can show others respect, even though they haven’t earned our respect.
 - We must understand “Imagio Deo”.
 - Everyone is created in the image of God, and because of that, is worthy of honor.
 - **Luke 6:27-28,35**, “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you... love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.”

- If we understand submission, then we should understand how to operate under the authority of those immediately and directly over us.
- **[vs. 18-20] “Servants”** = domestic servants/slaves
 - For us, this is to mean our relationship and response to our employers, bosses, administrators, teachers, etc.
 - **Ephesians 6:5-8**, “Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.”
 - **1 Timothy 6:1**, “Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.”
- What is the purpose/result of our righteous submission, attitudes, and actions towards the unrighteous?... Glory to God.
 - The greatest example is who we are striving to be like, Jesus Christ.
 - Don’t forget Peter was an eye-witness to the sinless life of Jesus, and His arrest, trial, and persecution.
 - Peter and John brought before the council for preaching the name of Jesus
 - **Acts 4:19-20**, “But Peter and John answered them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.’”
 - **Acts 5:29**, “We must obey God rather than men.”
- Our attitudes and actions will give credence to our testimony and witness for Jesus Christ.

[Verses 21-24] 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit

found in his mouth. **23** When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

- What Jesus went through on the cross eliminated our sin. We don't have to live in hostility, anger, be argumentative, condescending, or selfish in our relation to those in authority over us — we must fight against those sinful tendencies.
 - He was mocked, called crazy and the devil, ridiculed, spit on, beaten, and killed.
 - **John 15:18-19**, “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”
- His persecution and death also serves as our ultimate example of submission to authority.
 - Could He have argued or fought His way out of the trial and off the cross... of course.
 - **Philippians 2:8**, “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”
 - But He remained, in honor of and submissive to His Father's will.
- Jesus, as our Shepherd, by His Word can protect us from ‘hostile adversaries/enemies’.
 - We need to remember WHO resides in us, and to WHO we are a witness and accountable to.

Response/Prayer

1. What, then, should submission to the authorities look like for you?
2. What is our response and responsibility to government leaders whom we don't always agree with?
3. Which authority in your life do you have the most trouble with? Reflect on why that is... what needs to be done to bring yourself back in to submission, according to God's Word?