



## THE GOSPEL AND POLITICS

APRIL 21, 2024 | 1 PETER 2:13-17

### OUR STARTING POINT

ROMANS 13:1-6

Our default position as followers of Christ is to \_\_\_\_\_ to the God-given authority of human institutions.

### OUR HIGHER ALLEGIANCE TO GOD

Living as the slaves of God first...

- ① ...ensures that the \_\_\_\_\_ shapes my politics rather than the other way around.
- ② ...actually makes me a better citizen on \_\_\_\_\_.  
Peter emphasizes the idea of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - » by \_\_\_\_\_ for our leaders.
  - » by taking \_\_\_\_\_.
  - » by exercising \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

1 PETER 2:12, 15; 3:17; 4:19; 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

- ③ ...frees me to \_\_\_\_\_ for the cause of Christ.

Peter tells us to continue \_\_\_\_\_.

- » by exercising whatever \_\_\_\_\_ we have.
- » common thread: a \_\_\_\_\_ to face the consequences of obeying God rather than man.

1 PETER 4:19; ACTS 4:18-20, 5:21-42

### FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. If you were to rate your natural inclination for being submissive on a scale of one to ten, where would you place yourself and why? (One is a mud-covered doormat; ten is a banner-waving firebrand.)
2. Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. According to Peter, why should Christians treat their governing leaders with honor? How do you think the phrase, "for the Lord's sake" (verse 13), should affect the way we submit to those in authority?
3. Explain in your own words the motive verse 15 gives for submitting to authorities. How should being "free people" (verse 16) affect how we submit? How could the teachings of verses 16-17 keep you from becoming a "muddy doormat" to the government?
4. Read Acts 4:18-20. Peter and John had done nothing wrong, and the Sanhedrin couldn't deny a miracle has taken place, so at this point they could only issue a command and a warning (vv. 13-18). How did Peter respond (vv. 19-20)? What principles for Christian behavior before authorities do Peter and John exemplify?
5. Read Acts 5:29-42. How did the apostles respond to their sufferings (vv. 40-41)? How can we prepare ourselves for the costs we may have to pay for following Christ? How would you handle being put in jail because you took an unpopular stand for Christ?
6. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Consider those who benefit from our prayers: "kings and all those in authority." Do you pray for these people? Why, or why not? Consider the purpose of praying for authorities: that we may live peaceful, quiet, godly, holy lives. Why would praying for political leaders give us peaceful, quiet lives? Why is a peaceful, quiet life desirable for believers?