

Submission to Christ

1 Peter 2:13-20

"The relationship of Christians to the state was one which soon became problematic, for in the early centuries of the church all states not only were governed by pagans but included pagan worship within their social, economic, and political systems. A collision with the church, owing its primary allegiance not to the state but to Jesus Christ, was inevitable. Added to this was the fact that even before Christianity broke completely with Judaism, the Jewish hierarchy perceived a powerful rival in the followers of 'The Way,' and its leaders were not slow to stir up trouble with the civil authorities whenever the opportunity arose. But Jews and Christians alike appreciated the value of settled government, and each faith sought to follow its religious practices within the existing civil framework whenever possible. One rabbinic writer bids Jews 'Pray for the welfare of the government, since without the fear of it people would devour one another alive'... Both Peter (in this chapter) and Paul (Rom. 13:6-7) express a similar sentiment in less colorful terms." Hillyer

- I. We would all readily agree as followers of Jesus Christ that he expects us to live well **for his sake** during our short sojourn here in this world. **Submission** to His Lordship over our lives is to take precedent over everything. It is to take precedent over our relationships, marriages, social life, how we play, the culture and its ways, community, work, what rulers and authorities tell us we must do through their rules and regulations, what we do to our bodies and minds, the language we use, how we spend our money, everything.

1 Peter 2:13-15; 1 Peter 1:14; 2:11-12

Gal. 5:16-17

Rom. 13:1-5

Matt. 5:13-16

Acts 5:27-29

Luke 6:6-11

Acts 16:19-22

Ex. 1:17

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Rev. 13:15-17; 14:11-12

2 Cor. 4:4

ὑποτάσσω *hypotássō*, hoop-ot-as'-so; to subordinate; reflexively, to obey:—be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto. [reflexively=automatically, instinctively] This word was a Greek military term meaning "to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader". In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden".

- II. We live as free men and women in Christ no matter what our situation might be. We have been set apart as aliens and strangers in the world to serve only one master, the Lord Jesus Christ. He has set us free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2) to serve him alone by obeying his commands. Our allegiance is to him. What he says we must do as we live our lives as strangers here in reverent fear (1:17).

1 Peter 2:16-17

John 8:36

Luke 4:18

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

- III. Every believer has their own set of circumstances they are dealing with because of the oppression of living in a fallen godless world. Some have been called to endure unjust suffering while others have not. Some find themselves in an ongoing, unrelenting existence of pain and anguish because of how they are being treated. Jesus calls us to follow in his steps by patiently enduring as we serve him, that is the cost of discipleship and it is well worth the honor it brings him.

1 Peter 2:18-20

Eph. 6:5-8

Luke 14:25-27 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.