

Submission is not a dirty word!

## 1 Peter 2:13-25 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

MM, this is interesting in our current political climate. Submit to every human authority. What's that mean?

Basically, if someone has an authority in some way, you honour that position.

1 Peter 2:17 - Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

>Romans 13:1 - Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God

Prime minister, whether you like him or not. Respect him. I can suggest a few things here. We may never come face to face with Prime Minister Turnbull yet a lot of people disrespect him from a distance.

1. Don't belittle him
2. Name him properly. He is Prime Minister Turnbull or Mr Turnbull, not Malcom, or Turnbull or loser or whatever term used.
3. Respect the decision making process, you don't know all of it.
4. You don't have to like policy, but you have to love and pray for the man. We are instructed to pray for our political leaders – do we, I mean really, you can't complain if you don't pray for them!

1 Timothy 2:1-2 - I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

And that is just one of the authority type people.

Think about state and local government, police, football coach, your boss, your pastor, your deacon your department leader. We all have a responsibility of authority in some way to do our job, we need to be allowed to have the authority to do so. That perhaps is Prime Minister Turnbull's big issue. He can't make any decisions because of the political environment.

We need to create an environment for our leaders to be able to lead, do their job and succeed as leaders.

Notice where the next verse takes us – back to doing good. But notice Peter calls doing good God's will.

<sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

Your life and your attitude to politicians can be a witness. Your life and attitude to local leaders is an important part of doing good. And in context with this passage an important part of being Holy.

<sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

What's this got to do with us? Well in those days, freedom was attached to being a Roman citizen. And that citizenship could be abused to discriminate against people who didn't have Roman citizenship.

What it boils down to is this "Don't use whatever status you have to put someone else down"

I'll give you an example: At a previous church we had someone who was a grammar nazi. Every week I would be given a list of grammatical errors that were either in my sermon notes or in the hymns on the screen. When I asked if it really was necessary, she noted that I only had a theological degree not a teachers degree so she couldn't expect me to understand.

She was trying to put me down. Make me feel inferior because I didn't have perfect grammar.

There are a bundle of examples that could be used. I am sure you have been made to feel inferior by someone using this kind of tactic. This is what Peter is talking about – it's just not on.

He points it out in the next verse.

<sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Do we get the picture here. Proper respect. Appropriate respect.

Again let's put it this way.

It's no good treating me like the Prime Minister. That's not my role. Treat me like a pastor. A Leader, a shepherd a guide. Those things.

It's no good treating Pete Moore, our church admin deacon and secretary like a School principle, that's not his role, he is charge of admin and logistics of the church.

Again the examples could go on.

The next part is quite contextual, but full of practical advice for us now.

<sup>18</sup> Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. <sup>19</sup> For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. <sup>20</sup> But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

Slaves, well that's not a really good contemporary understanding. There aren't slaves like there used to be in our country. But look at it this way.

Slaves could equal workers.

In other words, Workers do your job as the boss expects.

According to this verse, it doesn't matter whether they are fair or not – just do the job.

It is commendable if you do the job and the boss treats you bad. An old retired pastor at the church I was at when I was a kid said in a sermon, "Work like God is watching". I took that to heart as when I worked in the library fixing books, no one was around, just me in a big empty work room. I could have just read a book. Rev Willicome's words stuck.

Notice Peter calls it our calling to do this kind of work.

<sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

As in all our lives Christ is the example!!!!

I think we often forget to put the Jesus spin on everything.

The old "What would Jesus do" concept is now old hat, but I don't think we ever took it far enough. We used that phrase as a catch phrase for mission, social justice, church style but we often forgot to apply it to our Christian lifestyle. It needs to make a come back into our lives in everything we do.

Look at Jesus example.

<sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Notice here: even in injustice, Jesus entrusted Himself to God.

When persecuted – refer to God, when ridiculed – refer to God, when laughed at, refer to God, when slighted, refer to God.

Peter is pointing out here not only to live like Jesus but to know why we are to live like that. Look at these final few verses.:

<sup>24</sup> “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” <sup>25</sup> For “you were like sheep going astray,”<sup>[b]</sup> but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- Live Like Jesus because of what Jesus has done for us. Live like Jesus because he took our place on the cross, live like Jesus because we have been healed, save, sanctified, redeemed, all those theological ideas are wrapped up in this verse.
- Live like Jesus because He got us back to God.
- Live like Jesus because He is our role model, spiritual guide, mentor, and if you want to put it bluntly – He is the boss.