

Submission To Government

I Peter 2:13-17

I Peter 7

Introduction

It is a tough line to follow to be both submissive to God and submissive to an ungodly, secular government.

The truth is that ALL government- even an ungodly government is place over us by God.

(Read I Peter 2:13-17)

Jesus also back this up and submitted to ungodly, secular government.

John 19:11- ***Jesus answered, "You have authority over me only because it was given to you by God. So the man who handed me over to you is guilty of a worse sin."***

However, the truth is that while we are to submit to the earthly rules, we are to:

I. Obey God Rather Than Man

Acts 5:29- ***Peter and the other apostles answered, "We must obey God, not men."***

This is the same man speaking- Peter- who wrote I Peter. What is he saying?

How can we obey both God and submit to ungodly earthly governmental authority?

We obey God, and then we take whatever consequences for doing so that earthly authority metes out.

Acts 5:40- *They called the apostles in, had them whipped, and ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus; and then they set them free.*

They were beaten. They were told to no longer preach the gospel. They left, they preached, and they were later killed by the government for doing it.

They did not raise an army of rebellion.

Now, back to our passage...

(Read I Peter 2:13-17)

I. God Is Honored When We Are Obedient

Government is the will of God. We are to obey His will. This honors Him.

Disobedience dishonors God.

Believe it or not, God is especially honored when we are faithful to obey Him under harsh conditions.

Matthew 5:46- *Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that!*

Luke 6:32-36- *"If you love only the people who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners do that! And if you lend only to those from whom you hope to get it back, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount! No! Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High God. For he is good to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.*

Ephesians 6:5-9- *Slaves, obey your human masters with fear and trembling; and do it with a sincere heart, as though you were serving Christ. Do this not only when they are watching you, because you want to gain their approval; but with all your heart do what God wants, as slaves of Christ. Do your work as slaves cheerfully, as though you served the Lord, and not merely human beings. Remember that the Lord will reward each of us, whether slave or free, for the good work we do. Masters, behave in the same way toward your slaves and stop using threats. Remember that you and your slaves belong to the same Master in heaven, who judges everyone by the same standard.*

Colossians 3:22-25- *Slaves, obey your human masters in all things, not only when they are watching you because you want to gain their approval; but do it with a sincere heart because of your reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people. Remember that the Lord will give you as a reward what he has kept for his people. For Christ is the real Master you serve. And all wrongdoers will be repaid for the wrong things they do, because God judges everyone by the same standard.*

II. Scripture Demands Obediences Except....

When that authority demands immoral or ungodly behavior.

When such behavior is demanded, we must obey God rather than man.

Even if it means arrest, imprisonment, or even death. Even when this happens we are submitting to the government.

III. Leave Judgment To God

Now, we in our nation are in a unique historical situation. We select our own government. As such, we are to select a godly government. When we do not, we fall under God's judgment.

However, ALL authority is sanctioned by God and will be held accountable by God.

Romans 14:12- ***Every one of us, then, will have to give an account to God.***

Historically, God has been good at taking down ungodly governments- He took out the Canaanites. He took out the Assyrians. He took out Adolf Hitler.

So, ungodly governments, beware.

Conclusion

So what does all of this teach us about our actions as modern Christians?

1. Seek to have a good government. VOTE. Be a part of the political process.
2. When the process is done, submit.
3. If you must break the law for moral purposes, take the consequences without whining- this honors God.

Leave the overthrow of an ungodly government to God.

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(John 19:11)

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I. Obey God Rather Than Man

(Acts 5:29; 5:40)

We obey God, and then we take whatever _____ for doing so that earthly authority metes out.

II. God Is Honored When We Are Obedient

(Matthew 5:46; Luke 6:32-36; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-25)

Government is the will of God. We are to obey His will. This honors Him.

_____ dishonors God.

Believe it or not, God is especially honored when we are _____ to obey Him under harsh conditions.

III. Scripture Demands Obediences Except....

When that authority demands _____ or ungodly behavior.

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(Romans 14:12)

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So what does all of this teach us about our actions as modern Christians?

1. Seek to have a good government. _____. Be a part of the political process.
2. When the process is done, _____.
3. If you must break the law for moral purposes, take the consequences without _____ - this honors God.

Possible Answers: submit, faithful, ungodly, all. Immoral, whining, authority, consequences, disobedience, vote