

Submission to Authorities

“13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.” (1 Peter 2:13-14 KJV)

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme.” (1 Peter 2:13 KJV) The call of Apostle Peter for the church to live as strangers and pilgrims are evident here in His instruction to the believers to be in submission to the authorities; to the king as higher authority or to the governors who are under the king as we read in the next verse. These authorities are composed of non-believers people and when the believers will show respect and submission to these authorities then they will give a good idea about who is Christ and how He teaches His people to be respectful to rules and authorities. The testimony of Christ will be better portrait when the believers show respect to the rules and keep the system and abide by the rules of the government. The rules of the government may include tax and other payments for governmental services. Therefore we are obliged to well-doing in abiding with all that in order for us to fulfill God's will.

“Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.” (1 Peter 2:14 KJV) The rules of the government are directed to punish those who are doing evil and to reward those who do good. Therefore for us to be spared the punishment and the penalties of the government upon their subjects we need to abide by all the rules and the regulations of the government.

Initially the Jewish were having God's kingdom on earth. But since they disobeyed and started to worship idols and brought them to God's temple the Lord sent them enemies, the fiercest of them is the Babylonian, who conquered them and brought them to exile in Babylon, and from that day the Jewish lost their kingdom and become subject to other nations. Even after exile when they returned to their land they were under the subjection of other government. That situation was imposed on them. Therefore submission to the non-believers' authorities and accepting to abide by their rules is submission to the discipline of God and what He ordained as consequences to their sins.

Nebuchadnezzar the king of the Babylonian when he made a covenant with King Zedekiah that he needs to be subject to him, the Scripture tells us the following about King Zedekiah: ***“¹¹ Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. ¹² And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD. ¹³ And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.” (2 Chronicles 36:11-13 KJV)*** Nebuchadnezzar the king of the Babylonian made king Zedekiah swear by the name of our God to be subject to King Nebuchadnezzar. But later on rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar and God considered that action as rebelliousness against God who placed Zedekiah under King Nebuchadnezzar as a discipline for him, and to bear the consequences of his sin of doing evil in the sight of the Lord his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD.

When the people of God did not abide by the principle of God's Word and abused His grace, God handed them over to the non-believers to rule over them. It is a fair punishment. They did not know how to fear God and respect him, then God put them under the non-believers to rule over them. Therefore they needed to fear the authorities to be spared punishment; otherwise they will be dealt with if they abuse the authorities. The non-believers authorities that God had placed His people under their care, the other purpose of it is to protect his people. The authorities of the governments are a protection to the subjects and terror to those who rebel.

The same for us today as Christians; our Kingdom is not on earth, therefore while we are living on earth we need to submit to the government authorities that God had set on us as consequences of our sins in abusing His grace. When Christians now a day behave as non-believers, then to be put them under the mercy of non-believer government is a fair deal.

The Prophet Jeremiah kept on admonishing the people in Jerusalem to go and surrender and submit to the authorities of the Babylonians. Prophet Ezekiel admonishes God's people who were in exiles in Babylon with the same thing. Jeremiah was in Jerusalem, and Ezekiel was in Babylon, they were not in communication but both of them led by the Spirit of God wrote the same thing, 'to submit to the authorities'.

In the New Testament the writing of Peter is submission to authorities, as the writing of Apostle Paul also has the same prospect to submit to authorities. Both of them were not in direct communication, but the Holy Spirit inspires them with the same thing: ***“1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ² Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: ⁴ For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. ⁵ Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. ⁶ For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” (Romans 13:1-7 KJV)***

My dear and beloved: The government of the non-believers is the will of God for us today and we need to persevere and behave correctly till He comes and take us to heaven. Even Christ crucified by the Romans soldiers in submission to God's will. ***“29 Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? 30 They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. 31 Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death: 32 That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.” (John 18:29-32 KJV)*** Therefore rebelling against the non believers' government is rebelling against God. ***“15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: 16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. 17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” (1 Peter 2:15-17 KJV)***

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, I thank you for your Word that makes me understand the way that you want me to live for you. Lord, I commit myself to be in submission to the government authorities of non-believers and to give and to pay what I need to give and to pay them. I trust you that you will protect me, and you will sustain me and provide for me all my needs till you come to take me to heaven. I thank you and praise you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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