

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)

“13 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.

“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 2:14 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 God and started to worship idols and brought them to God's temple, then 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 Babylonians when he made a covenant with King Zedekiah that he needed 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 Babylonians 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 to him the Word of God 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 them was 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 admonished 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 and 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 inspired 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)***

Submission to authorities is one the teaching that the Bible mentions and teaches. ***“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.” (Romans 13:1 KJV)*** * Authorities of the governments with all their offices are ordained by God, for He had put them and God had given them power in order to do what He requires from them to do. Whatever power the authorities have they had come from God and He had ordained to give that power to them. * Therefore we need to understand and have right mind to think that God had given them that power for a certain purpose to be accomplished on earth and in the life of the people.

“2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.” (Romans 13:2 KJV) Therefore those who resist the government and do things against the governments and the rules of the governments they are resisting and they are opposing God and His purpose on earth and what He wants to do.

“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.” (Romans 13:3 KJV) * We need to take the things of the government in a positive way and for our benefits. The authorities have power and they are terror to those who are doing evil and not for those who do what is right. * The way for us not to be afraid from authorities is when we will do what is right. When we will do what is right then we are praised by the authorities, accepted and pleasant to them. * We need to pray for the authorities and those who are in authorities and we need to avoid doing evil (like stealing, riot, cheatings, fighting, murder, adultery, etc.) and in addition to that we need to obey the rules that the governments are issuing.

“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.” (Romans 13:4 KJV) * The government and those who are in authority they are instruments of God to do you the good things. They are working as instruments of God to protect you from evil, and to bring to you His grace in full. * But if you do evil, then you should be afraid because they are the minister and the servant of God to revenge and to bring judgment on those who do evil. Therefore you should be refrained from evil so that you will not be harmed by God through the government and through those who are instituted by God and had given power from Him to punish those who do evil.

“For he is the minister of God to thee for good.” When the Word of God says that the authorities are ministers of God to do you good, it means if there is corruption and wrong doing inside the government God will not tell me to be part or to take part with them.

“5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.” (Romans 13:5 KJV) Therefore the need here to be obedient and subject to authorities is something mandatory to avoid wrath and judgment due to disobedience, as well as we submit to authorities so that we will have a clear conscious before God. Therefore, our submission to authorities will give us a clear conscious before God and we will have peace from Him.

“6 For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.” (Romans 13:6 KJV) * Our submission to authorities not only to avoid evil and to do good, but we need to pay what is due to the government of finances. * We need to pay from our finances because they are God's minister and they are serving God by restraining the evil, punishing the wicked and rewarding the righteous for his good work. Therefore we need to pay the governments the fees of the various services so that they can live and be sustained, so that their services to God and to man, ourselves, to be continued.

“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 13:7 KJV) * Therefore we need to pay all what is due to them from tribute, custom, tax, to fear them and to honor them. * Avoid speaking loose words against government. If there is issue needs to be addressed we need to bring it to God in prayers.

* How about now if the government will start to do evil and will start to abuse us and abuse the people through harsh rules, excessive payments, etc.? * In such situation we need to be patient and we need also to do our part as we mentioned above, as well as we need to bring up, exposing the corruption in them and challenge them to correct their ways in a polite, non

fighting and non aggressive approach like rallies and fightings. * When the government and those in authorities become corrupted, then we would be refrained from paying bribes to them, we need to avoid rallying and fighting with them, but we need to pray for them and explain to them in a peaceful way our rights and what is due for us. * We need also to use government authorities who are above them in order to challenge them to repent, to give us our rights and not to extort us and get advantage from us.

The Scriptures show us examples of that. John the Baptist rebuked Herod for his marriage with his brother wife. ***“3 For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. 4 For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.” (Matthew 14:3-4 KJV)*** John was jailed for standing on the truth. * ***I am not*** telling that you go and get appointment with those who are in authorities and tell them you are adulterers, but that when you are called to speak you should open your mouth to speak the truth to the right person and in the right time. * Why we don't speak when we are called? Because we fear man and not fearing God; if we cannot say it in front of the government then we should not say it at their back. God does not call us to get involve with the corruption of the government. But God call us to fight corruption by telling the truth in a precise and gentle way as John did.

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not bow to the corruption of the Jewish and the corruption of the government of Pilate when he was arrested and put into trials. He declared to Pilate the truth that he, Pilate, will have no power on Jesus if power was not being given to him from above, and that whoever had handed Him over to him have a greater sin, ***“9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.” (John 19:9-11 KJV)*** Therefore Jesus clearly stated to Pilate and warned him indirectly, not to put his hand in the corruption that the Jewish were involved with to hand Jesus over to Pilate to be executed. When Jesus told Pilate, ***“therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin”***, that was a rebuke and warning to Pilate; Jesus was telling to him indirectly, that you know they are corrupted, now if you will put your hand with them you will be charged and punished by God for the same sin that they were doing.

Apostle Paul stood also against the corruption of the Jewish and their use for the corrupted Romans governors to execute him. Paul refused to give Felix a bribe. ***“26 He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him. 27 But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.” (Acts 24:26-27 KJV)*** We fight the corruption in the government by avoid getting involved in their corruption like giving bribes to them. Part of our submission to authorities is when we are fighting the corruption of those who are infiltrated inside the government offices and who brought corruption.

Paul challenged Festus, that he, Paul, being a Roman citizen, appealed to the higher authority of Caesar so that he will escape the threats of the Jewish and their conspiracy using the greedy Romans rulers, ***“9 But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said,***

Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me? 10 Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest. 11 For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.” (Acts 25:9-11 KJV) Paul rebuked Festus and declared to Festus that he knew that Paul did nothing wrong, so in other word Paul was telling Festus why you got corrupted and is standing with the wicked against the righteous. Paul declared clearly that he was not refusing to die if he had done something worthy of death. He was confident in the way he walked with God and the way he served the Lord.

We need to stand against corruption and compromises by refusing to do what is wrong, and when we are willing God will make a way for us to escape corruption and to live in the truth and to bring the truth to others. Daniel and his friends refused to eat from the corrupted royal food, therefore God helped them and sent them someone who agreed with them and gave them pulses and water, and we know that God made their faces shine and helped them to avoid eating the unclean food of the King of Babylon.

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 for the Jewish at the year of the death of Jesus were not having the authority to put any man to death. **“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) * Therefore also we need to give the authorities of the government what is due to them from tribute, custom, tax, to fear them and to honor them, “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 13:7 KJV)**

“11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” (Ephesians 5:11 KJV) * Part of our submission to God and our submission to the authorities is to work to expose corruption and wickedness and deal with them. * We fight corruption by prayers, willing to suffer and go through the narrow way and through the firm stand against all compromises and the prevalent corruption. * Let us commit ourselves into the ways of God and be willing to apply the message in our lives and work out with God to do the very thing that He wants us to do and achieve. Let us pray

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, thank you for your Word that made me understand the meaning of submission to authorities, and the way that you want me to live

for you. Lord thank you for all the rebukes, the admonishments and the corrections that I received through this message.

Come now to God, repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce the fear of man, fighting and making rallies against the government, speaking at their back, and giving bribes to let your work done. Confess your non willing to give tax and other fees pertains to the government. Renounce your corruptions, telling lies, cheating, stealing, making fraud, etc. Repent of breaking rules of the government and the traffic rules. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your greed and love of material things. Repent being yoked with non believers, friends, Media, News and games. Repent of your bad stewardship, wasting your resources and being bad example to others. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and to suffer for Him. Repent of doing your own will and plan and not the will of God and His plan. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____ .

Lord, I commit myself to be in submission to the government authorities of non-believers and to pay what I need to give and pay to them. Lord I commit myself to the principles that I received from your message and to apply them into my life. Lord I humble myself into your hand to work with the governor authorities to keep rules and systems that promotes holiness and order in the society. Lord I commit myself to work with you to fight corruption in your way and to be standing firm against compromises. Lord, I trust you that you will protect me, and you will sustain me and provide me all my needs till you come to take me to Heaven. Lord give me more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to have the character and the attitude of Jesus in my life. Lord use my life to be good example to others to know you and to follow you through my life.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and committed themselves to live for you. Lord protect them from the evil one and fight their enemies on their behalf. Devil we rebuke you and cast you out from their lives in the name of Jesus. Lord bless them, sustain them, and provide all their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord help us as your church to continue to teach according to your Word and will. Lord go before us and lead us to streets, buildings, cities, villages to reach new people, to bring Jesus into their lives, and that our life example will be attractive to others to know you and to follow you. Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit so that we can go and evangelize and make new disciples and complete the work that you ordained for us to do. Lord protects us from the evil one and provides our needs to continue to serve you and to continue to stand firm for the truth. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Submission to Authorities. 1 Peter 2:13-17. 2 Chronicles 36:11-13. Romans 13:1-7. Matthew 14:3-4. John 19:9-11. Acts 24:26-27. Acts 25:9-11. John 18:29-32. Ephesians 5:11.

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