

# **The Submission Strategy**

## 1 Peter 2:13-17

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the

ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

**Be subject** for the Lord's sake to every human institution

Romans 8:7

For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not **submit** to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Luke 10:17

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are **subject** to us in your name!"

## Luke 2:46-49

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was **submissive to them.**

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every **human institution**

Romans 13:1

Let every person be subject to the **governing authorities**. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been **instituted by God**.

Romans 13:2

Therefore whoever resists the **authorities** resists what **God has appointed**, and those who resist will incur judgment.

## Daniel 4:17

...that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and ***gives it to whom he will*** and sets over it the lowliest of men.

## Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is a stream of water in ***the hand of the LORD***; he turns it wherever he will.

## John 19:10-11

Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no ***power*** over me if it were not ***given to you from above.***



There is no ruler anywhere or from any time in history who was not set in his exalted position by God.

– James Montgomery Boice



or to governors as **sent by him** to **punish** those who do evil and to **praise** those who do good.

## Esther 6:1-3

On that night the king could not sleep.  
And he gave orders to bring the book  
of memorable deeds, the chronicles,  
and they were read before the king.  
And it was found written how Mordecai  
had told about Bigthana and Teresh,  
two of the king's eunuchs, who

sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

And the king said, "What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" The king's young men who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him.",

Those who serve the state as legislators, civil servants, magistrates, police or tax-collectors are just as much “ministers of God” as those who serve the church as pastors, teachers, evangelists or administrators.

– John Stott



Be subject **for the Lord's sake** to every human institution

Ephesians 5:22

Wives, submit to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Ephesians 6:1

Children, obey your parents **in the Lord**, for this is right.

The emperor cult was popular in Asia Minor, and Christians doubtless felt social pressure to participate. Peter reminded his readers at the outset that rulers are merely creatures, created by God and existing under his lordship. A fine balance is maintained, however, in that believers still have a responsibility to submit to these authorities. Their submission, however, is not obsequious or mindless. Believers are to submit “for the Lord's sake.”

– Thomas Schreiner



For this is the **will of God**, that by doing good you should put to **silence the ignorance** of foolish people.



## 1 Peter 2:12

Keep your conduct among the **Gentiles** honorable, so that when **they speak against** you as evildoers, **they may see** your good deeds and **glorify God** on the day of visitation.

## Titus 3:1

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be **ready for every good work,**

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

True freedom, true ability to choose  
and do what one really wants to do,  
comes paradoxically in entire  
submission to God as his obedient  
servants.

–Wayne A. Grudem



Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood.

Fear God. Honor the emperor.



All people should be treated as the person holding the highest office should be treated.

Honor everyone. **Love the brotherhood.** Fear God. Honor the emperor.

John 13:35

By this **all people will know that you are my disciples**, if you have love for one another.

Fear God. Honor the emperor.

## Proverbs 24:21-22

My son, fear the LORD and the king,  
and do not join with those who do  
otherwise, for disaster will arise  
suddenly from them, and who knows  
the ruin that will come from them both?



## Jeremiah 29:4-6

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.

Jeremiah 29:7

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

When the church takes a stance that emphasizes political activism and social moralizing, it always diverts energy and resources away from evangelization. Such an antagonistic position toward the established secular culture invariably leads believers to feel hostile not only to unsaved government leaders with whom they disagree, but also antagonistic toward the

unsaved residents of that culture--neighbors and fellow citizens they ought to love, pray for, and share the gospel with. To me it is unthinkable that we become enemies of the very people we seek to win to Christ, our potential brothers and sisters in the Lord.

– John MacArthur



## Acts 4:18-20

So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”