

Christians and Political Authorities

I Peter 2:13-17

Introduction

What does it look like to be faithful Christians in a politically divisive culture especially during an election year?

- Being a multi-ethnic and multi-generational church with people from all kinds of backgrounds means an election year like we had in 2020 can tempt us to forget that we are *all* aliens and strangers in this world but united in Christ and are therefore called to live differently.
- God gave us much grace as a church to get through the political turmoil, protests, and difficulties of 2020.
- We trust that He will do the same this year no matter who the Presidential Candidates end up being.
- Not because we are a special or unique church per se, but because God is faithful, and He has spoken to us through His Word and equipped us with everything that we need for life and godliness.
- In Christ he has broken down the dividing walls of hostility by reconciling us to Himself and to one another through the Cross of Christ (Eph 2:11-22).

How do we stay united as a multi-ethnic and multi-generational church in a politically divided world during another politically divided season?

- By living as Sojourners and Exiles saying, singing, and believing: “The Lord is (our) light and salvation. Of whom shall we be afraid. We will wait in and trust in the Lord. (We) will remain confident in this: we will see the goodness of the Lord. (We) set our hope on the Everlasting God.”
- We must remember our identity as the Chosen, Royal, and Holy people of God who are born again to a living hope in order that we might proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- Peter instructed the Christians spread throughout Asia Minor how to faithfully apply their newfound identity and purpose to their relationship with the governing authorities.

- It is from the Holy Spirit inspired text that we learn the will of God even in our day.

Pray: *Father, would you by the power of the Holy Ghost unite us in your Son and empower us to faithfully engage our culture as witnesses to you and your gospel in a way that brings good to our broken world? For Jesus sake, we pray, Amen.*

I. We Must Understand the Purpose of Political Authority in a Broken World (13-14)

I Peter 2:13-14

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

- It is important that we remember the flow of Peter's argument.
- Last week we saw that we are to be warring and winsome witnesses.
- That is, we are to be warring against the old sinful passions of our flesh and seeking to live such good lives that even those who criticize us have to admit the beauty of our lives together; *even while they slander other parts of it* – often including our beliefs and morality.
- Therefore, it is worth considering how our old sinful passions might naturally rear their rebellious heads when it comes to dealing with *authority generally* and *political authority specifically*.
- Three Truths to help us understand Political Authority.

1. Our Old Sinful Passions Naturally Rebel Against Authority.

- Genesis 3: Satan's temptation is a temptation to reject God's authority and make our ourselves our own authority.
- Satan is more than willing to tell you that you shouldn't submit to anyone else, even and especially God.
- But God is our authority and as our authority he has established other authorities.
- He has made this clear in the home with Husbands and Parents; in the Church with the Elders for leading with the Word and the Congregation in ruling when the Word is

violated in matters of membership, doctrine, and discipline; in civil authorities to reward good and punish bad. Etc.

- It is natural since Adam and Eve first rebelled in the garden for us to rebel against authority. Our instincts are rebellious from birth.
- *Come on there are enough parents in this gathering. Who taught your toddler to disobey you? It comes naturally.*
- But not only is that a reality in humanity across cultures and time periods.
- We live in a uniquely **anti-authoritarian age**.
- Some of that is because **we've all witnessed the abuse of authority**.
- Some of that is because we live in **an increasingly secular age that rejects God and sees authority itself as a problem inherently**.
- **Understanding this helps us understand why human beings, including us, have such sinful passion when it comes to authority generally and political authority specifically.**

2. Good Authority is a Great Blessing.

- Now that we are in Christ, we must have our understanding of authority transformed.
- We have turned to Christ not only as the King of Kings, but as our King.
- God is back on the throne of our hearts and lives and we have been evicted from that spot.
- Therefore, He alone as the Authority to tell us how to think about and relate to authority.
- But the good news that we learn in the Scriptures is that authority, **rightly wielded according to God's good design**, is a **great gift to that underneath it**.
- At the end of the Great King David's life he delivers his final words and notice how he highlights the great blessing of authority rightly wielded.

2 Samuel 23:2-4

*² "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me;
his word is on my tongue.*

*³ The God of Israel has spoken;
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
When one rules justly over men,
ruling in the fear of God,
⁴ he dawns on them like the morning light,
like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning,
like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.*

- Good and just authority leads those underneath it to flourish and grow like the perfect amount of sun and water causes all of my wife's beautiful flowers to grow.
- Notice the imagery: *morning light shining forth on a cloudless morning*...rain that makes the grass grow.
- I told my wife I love this time of year. I just appreciate seeing all the new fresh green growth and the flowers budding with beautiful colors. The birds singing new songs of Spring.
- The morning glow of the Spring is just beautiful.
- **That is what people are like under just authority**.
- Consider the blessing of a Mother and Father who loving exercise appropriate authority.
- Remember some of the most impactful people in your life.
 - Teachers, Coaches, and Principals.
 - Bosses, Leaders, Mentors, and hopefully Parents –
 - *Did not those who had the most impact use their authority over you correctly to help you flourish and bloom?*
- Any place where you find flourishing people you will find faithful leaders.
 - Flourishing children are raised by faithful parents who know how to use their authority to help their children flourish.
 - Same is true of teams, schools, businesses, and organizations.
 - *There are few blessings greater than good authority*.
- Which is why the opposite is also true and so painful.
- The bad news that we learn in the Scriptures is that authority, wrongly wielded according to God's good design, is a great curse to those underneath it.

- In Ecclesiastes the author hits the lowest of the low when he considers the abuse of authority.

Ecclesiastes 3:16

¹⁶ Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

¹ Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. ² And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. ³ But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

- Where people are floundering – it is *often* the case that there is an authority problem.
- Perhaps an abuse of authority or an abdication of it.
- But either way if good authority is missing, **it is almost certain that people will be floundering.**
 - Consider the impact of Fatherlessness on a child, a neighborhood, and a community.
- Families, neighborhoods, communities, churches, teams, schools, and organizations **can make it through a lot of horrible situations with good leadership and authority.**
- But where those with power and influence are bad – things almost always go bad.
 - Often those most skeptical of authority are so because they have seen so few examples of it used correctly.
 - They've never flourished under good authority and so they have concluded that authority itself is bad.
- We are sinfully rebellious against authority, and we are especially skeptical when it comes to political authority.
- We generally do not trust politicians because they have proven again and again not to be trustworthy.

But that doesn't erase the inherent good in good political authority.

- What is the biblical purpose of political authority?

3. Civil Authority is to Punish Evil and Reward Good.

- According to the Bible, true and just political authority is meant to punish evil and reward good for the flourishing of the whole.
- There is much more that could be said underneath this umbrella purpose but that's beyond our scope today.
- We see in our text today in Asia Minor, The Emperor (or King) oversaw the Governors who were (14b), *“sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.”*
- In his epistle to the Christians in Rome, the Apostle Paul said:

Romans 13:1-5

*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. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are **not a terror to good conduct, but to bad**. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then **do what is good, and you will receive his approval**, ⁴ for he is God's **servant for your good**. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.*

- God's good design of civil or political authority in a broken world is to punish evil and praise or reward good in order to restrain evil and encourage good for the flourishing of all.
- Where there is no punishment of evil and no reward of that which is good, then evil is certainly to override the good because **human beings are born rebellious against God who is the only one truly good**.
- If human evil is not punished and restrained, then human evil will rule.
- Injustice and immorality will be rampant.
- Peter's original audience was obviously not in a democracy (or more accurately a democratic republic).
- They were likely under the rule of **Claudius or in the early days of Nero before his state sanctioned persecution of Christians** began.

- Since we aren't under a Monarchy but in a Democratic Republic we need to think about our responsibility when voting.
- We need to consider who will do the best job to fulfill this function of punishing evil and rewarding good *according to what God has revealed is evil and good*.
- *In our voting, this can feel complex because there are many evils to be concerned about, and currently not much good is being rewarded.*
- *But this should inform how we vote.*
- Peter and the Christians he was writing to did not have this kind of authority. We do.
- Therefore, we have more responsibility.
- In many ways, we as the people are the authority.
- *Let us use our authority well by voting for those who will punish evil and reward good according to God's definition of good and evil – for that is the Biblical Purpose of Civil Authority.*

II. We Must Understand Ourselves as Free Servants of God (I Peter 2:13-17).

- Now that we've quickly discussed the purpose of Civil or political authority and understood why we are prone to get rebellious and sinful when engaging politics...
- ...Let us turn to what our *individual* and *corporate* witness should look like as the Free Servants of God in this broken world where authority is so often abused or abdicated.

I Peter 2:13-14

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

1. We Submit for His Sake (13a)

A. For the Lord's Sake (2:9-10) as Sojourners and Exiles (2:11-12)

- First notice the controlling verb that describes what our concern is to be as sojourners and exiles. *Be subject (or submit)*

- Since we are the chosen people of God in this fallen world and our purpose is to bring glory and honor to His name through our worship and witness, we are to be subject or submit to the governing authorities God has put in place.
- We are not anarchists. We are to be good citizens.
- As elect exiles we submit to the authorities God puts in our life.
- But notice why we do this: *for the Lord's Sake.*
- It is God's glory that drives our submission to governing authorities.
- ***Our submission is given to civil authorities to fulfill our mission to glorify God.***
- This is true of other relationships where the Bible calls for good authority.
 - Children, you are to submit to your parents for the Lord's sake.
 - Students you should submit to your teachers for the Lord's sake.
 - Players you should submit to your coaches for the Lord's sake.
 - Employees you should submit to your Employer for the Lord's sake.
 - Citizens you should submit to Police Officers and Civil Authorities for the Lord's sake.
- **Christians should be the best people to pull over (though they shouldn't be doing anything to get pulled over).**
 - **Christians should be the best students to teach, children to parent, players to coach, employees to oversee, etc.**
- **If your instinct is to rebel, know that instinct isn't from the Lord but from the old sinful passions of your rebellious flesh.**

I know this leads to inevitable questions popping up in your mind.

A. To Every Human Institution?

- Not just because *you* are naturally rebellious, but **because authorities are too** and therefore plenty of them ***abuse*** and/or ***abdicate*** their authority according to their purpose as established by God.

- And you may look at that phrase, “*to every human institution*” with lots of those questions.
- **Let me help you by briefly considering the implication of ‘submission as mission’.**
- If we are to do this for the Lord’s Sake, that is for the Glory of God.
- Obviously, obedience to God please God and disobedience to God does not.
- Therefore, if Civil Authorities tell you to disobey God, **then they should be resisted rather than submitted to.**
- Ultimately, we submit to God, and to submitting to authorities because he told us to.
- But He is our unquestioned allegiance as the King of Kings and therefore even if a king tells us to disobey God, we will, indeed we must, **resist.**

If I tell my kids to always look both ways when they cross the road and then I send them to a friend’s house and tell them to obey their friend’s parents (Fast, happy, no excuses).

But the friend’s parents tell them to stop looking both ways before crossing the road because it’ll be fine. My kids ought to say, no my parents want me to always look both ways.¹

- This is an implication Peter himself obviously believes even when writing this because he modeled it in the book of Acts.
- When Peter and the apostles were preaching and teaching the gospel the authorities were irate. We read:

Acts 4:18-20

¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

- They continued to Preach Christ and Him Crucified. And again, were confronted by authorities.

Acts 5:27-33

¹ Schreiner, Thomas R. 2003. *1, 2 Peter, Jude*. Vol. 37. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers. “They obey the injunctions of governing authorities ultimately because of their reverence for and submission to the Lord. We have an implication here that the ruling powers should be resisted if commands were issued that violated the Lord’s will.”

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” ³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.

- Submission is Mission. We submit to authorities for the Lord’s sake even if they are sorry authorities. But if they tell us to disobey God, we must refuse.
- Not only is that implication implied, but Schreiner helpful points out that the Greek word translated into the phrase, “*every human institution*” more accurately means “*every human creature*” which highlights the Creator/Creature distinction.
- We submit to every human creature (and institution) out of our submission to God. But we do not confuse the creatures with the Creator.
- Our ***ultimate allegiance and obedience*** is to God alone.²
- Not to any earthly kings; not to the opinions of our heroes or political parties.
- But to God and God alone.
- ***Every human being is ultimately under His Lordship and will eventually bow the knee and confess that He is the King of Kings.***
- There is much more we could say about civil disobedience and how to rebel against authorities who are abusing and/or abdicating their roles but that is for a different sermon at a different time.
- Peter’s primary concern is that Christians in Asia minor, and even here and now, know that we submit for the Lord’s Sake and 2ndly that:

2. It is God’s Will that Our Good Conduct Expose their Foolish Slander (15)

I Peter 2:15

² Schreiner, Thomas R. 2003. *1, 2 Peter, Jude*. Vol. 37. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers. **Tom Schreiner** “The injunction to submit is not to “every authority instituted among men” (NIV) or “every human institution” (RSV, NRSV, NASB) but “to every human creature” (*pasē anthrōpinē ktisel*). The word “creature” refers to human beings or creation (Mark 16:15; Rom 1:25; Col 1:23; cf. also *Jdt* 16:14; *Tob* 8:5, 15). No basis exists for defining it as “human institution.”²...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.”

¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

- People often ask and wonder: What is God's will for my life?
- In part it is that you would be such a good citizen by submitting to civil authority that your conduct would silence their slander against God's people.
- Our behavior as citizens should rise above the gossip and slander of the world.
- Let them accuse. Let them bad mouth us. Let them be skeptical of us.
- But let our good conduct silence their ignorant slander and suspicion.³
- Let us be such citizens that Greensboro and the surrounding communities are obviously a better place because we are here.⁴
- As submissive citizens, but also because of our positive love and contributions.
- Let us do what The Lord told Jeremiah and His people as they were in exile:

Jeremiah 29:7

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.

- Help our monthly service to our friends at [Out of the Garden](#) – to help alleviate food insecurity in our community.
- Serve with our team at the [Harmony House](#) to care for the elderly.
- Jump in on our team to help in our [Orphan Care](#) ministries.
- Minister to the [Homeless](#).
- Help [women](#) and the [unborn through the Pregnancy Network](#).
- Serve [kids in Schools and mentoring programs](#).
- Join us this summer at [Soccer Nights](#).
- Faithfully [Work Hard in your jobs](#).
- Help organizations like our friends at [Knot today](#) who, “*exists to generate awareness, initiate prevention strategies, and support restorative services to end sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking of children.*”
- [Disaster relief](#) with our denominational partners.

³ Wheaton, David H. 1994. “[1 Peter](#).” In *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, edited by D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, and G. J. Wenham, 4th ed., 1377. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press. “*The Christian's upright behaviour should raise him or her above the slanders or suspicions of the ignorant (15).*”

⁴ Schreiner, Thomas R. 2003. [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#). Vol. 37. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers. “*By submitting to government, Christians demonstrate that they are good citizens, not anarchists. Hence, they extinguish the criticisms of those who are ignorant and revile them.*”

- We Plant Churches that can be in, reach, and serve their communities, Lord willing with the Speaks and Team in High Point in Sept and Yowes and team next year in East Greensboro.
- We pray for and Honoring Our Authorities.
- We live Normal Christian lives that make the world a better place.

I Tim. 2:1-2

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

- It is God's will that our good conduct would serve to silence their skepticism and slander.

Therefore, let us ***focus on doing the good*** and ***trusting God with what they say about us*** – **with hopes that He might use it to show his gracious and merciful love even to those who might currently hate us.**

- This is what Jesus Himself clearly taught:

Luke 6:35

³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

3. *Our Freedom is to be used to Serve His Kingdom not our Sin (16-17)*

I Peter 2:16-17

¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

- We are to live as free people.
 - We have been set free from the bondage of sin and death.
 - We have been set free from the penalty of our sin.
 - We have been set free from the emptiness of serving vain idols.
 - We have been set free from Satan's reign.
 - We have been set free from the fear of death.
 - We have been set free from the fear of man.

John 8:36

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

- No one else is *ultimately* in charge of us – but the Lord Himself.

- And He is *for* us.
 - We are set free to serve Christ.
 - We are set free to walk in new life.
 - We are set free to obey the authorities he has sovereignly put over us so long as they don't call us to disobey Him.
 - We are set free to love and serve our world without concern about recognition or applause from man here and now.
 - We are set free to know on judgment day we will hear those glorious words, "*well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master.*"

- We have been set free by becoming sons and servants of God.

- True freedom is not the ability to do whatever you want to do but instead the ability to do what God has created and redeemed you to do.

- We have exchanged masters from the *cruel, enslaving, and unsatisfying master of sin* to serve:
 - The One True and Living
 - and Glorious
 - and Beautiful
 - and Holy
 - and Magnificent
 - and Lovely
 - and Gracious
 - and Mighty
 - and Faithful
 - and Merciful
 - and Just
 - and Forgiving
 - and Wrathful
 - and Righteous
 - and All Knowing
 - and Ever Present
 - and All Powerful
 - Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

- Selwyn (1958: 174) "Christian freedom rests not on escape from service but on a change of master."⁵

- And *where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom!* (2 Co. 3:17)

⁵ Jobs, Karen H. 2022. [1 Peter](#). Edited by Robert W. Yarbrough and Joshua W. Jipp. Second Edition. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic: A Division of Baker Publishing Group.

- We are free not to do whatever we want to do. That's not freedom. **That's slavery to your compulsive feelings.**
- We are **set free to do whatever God wants!** That's what we are **made and redeemed to do!** That is freedom!
- Maybe you're here today and you're **not a Christian.** Maybe you're here today and you're **not sure where you're at with Christ.** Maybe you're here today and you've **strayed away from the Lord and it is time to come back home.**
- **The invitation to you, is to exchange the master of unsatisfying sin for the liberating Savior!**
- Christ really lived the life you should have lived.
- He really died on a Roman Cross to pay the penalty you should pay.
- And He was really risen on the 3rd day to set sinners free.
- Any and all who would turn from their sin and trust in His saving Grace as Savior and King.
- That's good news! That's gospel! That's our testimony.
- **It is by His grace and His grace alone that you can come to Him and has Him as Savior and King – and to know that He is for you!**
- He is the ultimate authority and infinitely good!
- Therefore, **you will flourish under his reign and rule according to His purposes and glory!**

Therefore, as aliens and strangers, Peter says, **we are not to use our freedom as a cover up for rebellious sin, but we live as servants of God even in our submission to our civil authorities.**

- Let us never justify rebellious sin or deceit in our new lives in Christ.
- Pay your taxes. Don't cut corners and cheat the government out of what you owe. The Bible is crystal clear on this.
- If you are cheating on your taxes, then you are disobeying God's will.

Romans 13:5-7

⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

- Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.
- Not because we fear Caesar but because we Fear the Lord.

Peter summarizes what our relationships should be characterized by as servants of the Lord.

A. Honor Everyone.

- Every human being is made in the Image of God, the *Imago Dei* (Gen. 1:26-28). Therefore, we should honor the Imago Dei in every human being.
- There are no second-class citizens. We treat all people with dignity and respect owed to them as human beings made in the image of God.
- We refuse to judge based on color of skin, dollars in a bank account, or cultural expression.
- We honor and respect others, even our enemies, as those made in His image even if rejecting His Name.

Titus 3:1-5

¹ Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

- We put gossip and slander to death in our presence.
- We avoid quarreling.
- This is especially relevant on social media during political turmoil.
 - Just because multiple 70+ year old presidential candidates choose ad-hominem attacks and use childish name calling banter against their political enemies.

- Just because news stations manipulate and deceive with data;
- Just because the political discourse on social media falls into the gutter of dishonesty, slander, gossip, and Jerry Springer like activity does not mean that we should follow suite.
- **Can I give those who might need it a very firm pastoral warning: If you are timid and quiet in person, please, please, please distrust the roaring lion in you behind a keyboard.**
- Clapping off behind a screen happens in part because we have removed the presence of the Imago Dei in front of us.
- It is easy to attack an avatar on a screen.
- Talking to a human being made in the Image of God helps you to consider how to be gentle and respectful even if having vehement disagreement.
- **Honor Everyone.**
 - Be one of those people who make everyone you come in contact with feel respected in ways that makes them ask why and then tell them about the love of God in Christ.
 - Call fast food employees or waitresses or waiters by their names on name tags.
 - Look people in the eyes.
 - Speak respectfully to them.
 - Encourage them when they do a job.
 - Tell them you appreciate them.
 - Tell Officers and Firemen and others who sacrifice their lives to protect yours that you appreciate them.

- **Honor Everyone.**

- **B. Love the Brotherhood.**

- How many times has Peter stressed our identity and love for the people of God?
- Together we are sojourners and exiles.

- Together we are God's people, Chosen, Holy, and Royal for His praise.
- We are to love one another deeply from the heart.
- The people of God, the Church of Jesus Christ, is the Apple of God's eye.
- Let us love our brothers and sisters in Christ with love that confuses this divided world.
- If your politics lead you to be less loving to the family of faith, then you are out of line and need to repent and return to Christ and love His Bride.
- If your politics leads you to love the church less, your heart is probably overly concerned with the cares of this world rather than the Kingdom of Christ.
- The Church is your family. Love like it.

C. Fear God.

- And no one else.
- If you fear the Lord, you need not fear any human.
- No matter who the President is in November, Jesus is sitting comfortably on the Throne.
 - The little kings and queens and presidents and emperors of this world do not cause him to pace about heaven even for one second.
- This should bring us supernatural comfort and peace that transcends natural understanding.
- Our Loving and Merciful Master is the King of Kings that all other Kings will bow down to in the end.

D. Honor the Emperor.

- Be a stranger in this divided world.
- Honor whoever is the President for no matter who it is or who it will be, he or she too will one day bow the knee to our King.

Conclusion

Let us live like sojourners and exiles by remember the great blessing of good authority and by being citizens that submit for His sake, knowing it is his will that our good conduct silence slander against us, and using our freedom to serve His kingdom by honoring everyone, loving the brotherhood, Fearing God alone, and honoring the Emperor.