

1 Peter 2:13-17

Only the Truly Strong Truly Submit

General Command v13-14

Believers are to voluntarily submit to Government rulers/leaders

This is a general imperative with implied exceptions (see Peter in Acts 5:28-29). The overall concept is Christians should obey human authority figures until/unless it would be a direct sin against God to obey them.

From the DVP the general purpose of human government (as opposed to anarchy) is: It should do things that promote order/peace and constrain/punish evil. (1 Tim 2:1-4)

Principle v15

By doing the will of God in this area of life, Believers can silence illegitimate criticism of Christians/Christianity

“For this is the will of God...” Realize: The Will of God is a Big Subject!?!

1: The Sovereign/Decretive Will of God

From Eternity Past God’s Plan

2: The Moral/Preceptive Will of God

What God Wants Us to Do Consistent with His Holy Character-the Word

3: The Permissive Will of God

What God Permits Us to Do But Which Violates His Moral Will-the Wall

4: The Directive Will of God

What God Wants Us to Do Consistent with Our Gifts/Responsibilities-Wisdom

5: The Providential Will of God

How God Works 2 + 3 Together Consistent with His Sovereign Will (Romans 8:28)

Expansion of the General Command v16-17

Believers are to Employ our Liberty to Honor/Serve God and Others Both Believers and Unbelievers, in the Church and in the World

This should sound familiar: “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life...” Matthew 20:28/Mark 10:45

Take This To Heart: Submission Isn't for Sissies OR: Only the Truly Strong Truly Submit

What Submission Is and Isn't

Hupomone the NT word for “submission” must be given/can't be taken
It is voluntarily laying down our preferences or convenience out of respect for another person. It can't be forced. It is freely given...such that only the truly strong truly submit.

Areas in Which Believers are to Submit

- 1: to God the Father and His will (Hebrews 12:9, James 4:7)
- 2: to Christ our Savior (Ephesians 5:24)
- 3: to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- 4: to the Elders of the local church (1 Peter 5:5)
- 5: to Human Government (Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13)
- 6: Christian Wives are to submit to their Husbands (1 Peter 3:1....keep 3:7 in mind)
- 7: Christian Employees are to submit to their Employers (1Peter 2:18)

Take This To Heart

The Kingdom of God doesn't expand by coercion but by persuasion and the power of positive action illuminating the Gospel. This happens as believers take our faith and live our faith not only in Church on Sundays and Wednesdays but in the world, in/around all kinds of different people believers and unbelievers to the glory of God. Each of us embracing a lifestyle of submission to God and submission to other people under God is a major part of this.