



Date: February 14, 2020

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:11 - 25

Context

At this point in the letter of 1 Peter, we begin to take a turn. We move from teaching to admonition – from instruction to application. Biblical authors always take this approach – from the moving from the indicative (doctrinal teaching) to the imperative (subsequent commands).

Discussion Questions

This passage commands us to submit to our authorities (1 Peter 1:13). Why?

Where does scripture locate the ultimate source of authority? {Can you find a verse that says so?}

How does our identity (per 1 Peter) impact our view of authority?

If that is the case, then what is the underlying reason for submitting to our earthly authorities?

Is there ever a time when we should refuse to submit to the authorities? (hint: Ask Peter and check in the book of Acts)

So where is the line?

At what point would we choose to disobey?

What would be a few realistic examples for our lives?

Can you think of any Biblical examples of times when disobedience was the Godly thing to do?

Can you think of any historical examples?ⁱ

What is “The day of visitation”? (1 Peter 2:12)

How does it encourage us when we’re treated unjustly?

This passage informs us that we are “Free” (1 Peter 2:16). What is Biblical Freedom? How does that differ from the American Cultural Concept of Freedom?ⁱⁱ



i I'm currently reading this book of short stories –

- *My Brother's Keeper: Christians Who Risked All to Protect Jewish Targets of the Nazi Holocaust* by Rod Gragg, (New York City, NY: Center Street, 2016). –

It's excellent!

ii "Biblical Freedom" =

This is a freedom to choose what is right. The Bible emphasizes that in those areas where the Word of God gives no command or primary principle, we are free and responsible to choose our own course of action. Christian freedom is always conditioned by Christian responsibility. Christian freedom does not mean being free to do only as we like; it means being free to do as we ought.

David Walls and Max Anders, I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude, vol. 11, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 34.

He bore our sins with a marvelous purpose: 'that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness'

Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross, The Bible Speaks Today* (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 123.

This whole section is in direct antithesis to the spirit of the world, where every individual and group demands its 'rights' and understands liberty as freedom from responsibility.

Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross, The Bible Speaks Today* (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 100.

not political freedom but spiritual freedom.

The great freedoms of the Christian life are:

- (1) freedom from the ruling power of sin in our lives;
- (2) freedom from guilt because our sins have been forgiven by God; and
- (3) freedom from the impossible obligation of attempting to earn favor with God through perfect obedience.

David Walls and Max Anders, I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude, vol. 11, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 34.

Every Christian needs to learn the secret of freedom, freedom in bondage to the Lord and in humility toward people.

Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross, The Bible Speaks Today* (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 111.