

THE BLESSING OF SUBMISSION 1 Peter 2:11-25

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Nero, was the fifth and final [Roman emperor](#) of the [Julio-Claudian dynasty](#). Nero was adopted by his great uncle [Claudius](#) to become heir to the throne. As Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, he succeeded to the throne on 13 October 54, following Claudius's death.

Nero ruled from 54 to 68,

Nero became emperor at sixteen, the youngest Emperor yet.^[21] Ancient historians describe Nero's early reign as being strongly influenced by his mother [Agrippina](#), who had Nero's father poisoned so Nero could assume power. Nero was warned about his mom and her attempts to steal power so he planned to have her killed in a shipwreck. When she survive Nero had her assassinated

On 18 July in the year 64 AD Nero started a terrible fire that spread, among the shops clustered around the [Circus Maximus](#).^[1] As many Romans lived in wood houses without masonry, the fire spread quickly through these areas.^[1] The fire was almost contained after five days before regaining strength- The fire destroyed three of fourteen Roman districts and severely damaged seven, while leaving only four remaining undamaged Also destroyed were [Nero's palace](#), the [Temple of Jupiter Stator](#) and the hearth in the [Temple of Vesta](#).

Nero quickly put the blame on Christians a smaller despised class in the empire. It was the first great persecution of Christians. Peter's letter was written during the rule of Nero. Proving undeniably that...

Submission to Earthly Authority Depends on our trust in God's Supreme Authority

1 Peter 2:11-25

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers (foreigners and exiles) in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

-The people of God are in the world, but not of it.

-They are not to focus their goals and values on that which is transitory

-With these words, Peter reminds believers (1:1) that this earth is not our home. We are foreigners here, traveling to our eternal home, heaven.

The word abstain literally means "to hold away from one's person."

-In other words, we must distance ourselves from our own self-indulgent urges.

-such urges are sinful if they become more important than god or a substitute for godly living

-if we truly see ourselves as the aliens, strangers, foreigners and exiles that then we will not place our desires for sensual indulgent before God

-we will engage in a figurative war against these urges

-the purpose of this war, according to Peter, is to be a witness to others,

-we do it so that other's will glorify God

-so that others will be convicted and provoked to consider Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior

¹³Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. ¹⁶Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

-Peter forcefully commands Christians to **submit** voluntarily to governing authorities.

-He does not make submission a matter of personal conviction or choice.

2:15 Peter's command for civil obedience backed by the God of the universe, the Sovereign Ruler over all citizens and governments and over all Christians and non-Christians. The one who establishes and determine not only the government but also who governs specifically -such obedience would silence accusers that would charge the believers with rebellion

-2:16 Freedom in Christ must be used wisely

-.Peter points out an obvious problem in this cautioning that freedom from sin is not freedom to sin

-being forgiven means that we will not be marked by sin and that God will not hold it against us and does not hold it against us

-this freedom, if understood, will inspire us to live a life of grateful servitude to the almighty

2:17 Fear God:

-Our reverence for God should be the basis of our relationships with others.

-All people are created in His image, and He is the One who has placed some people in authority over us.

-Therefore we should treat everyone with love and respect.

¹⁸Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

2:18 Slaves: Somewhere from one-third to half of the population of the Roman Empire were slaves.

-slavery is not to be associated with pre-civil war North America

-a person would sell themselves into slaves to repay a debt or to get ahead in life

-the slaves food and accommodations were often better than what the average person could afford

- Christians slaves were to serve even the worst masters with respect.

why because...

2:19 Those who suffer faithfully but unjustly as a result of their service to God please Him. Such suffering has a great reward

- Believers are not merely to survive the difficulties that come their way, rather they are to bear patiently their burdens

-the burden is not the result of grieving a loss but of being afflicted through unjust treatment.

-thus how we are treated by those in authority should have no bearing on the respect and submission we show to them

20 suggests benefit or personal gain.

-There is no advantage to believers for successfully enduring a deserved punishment for wrongdoing, yet there is great value when we honor God with our actions when we are unfairly condemned by others (3:17).

- Endurance and perseverance in the face of suffering pleases God.

21 Part of being a Christian is the privilege of serving God faithfully when we encounter undeserved judgment

-Observing how Christ handled unjust punishment gives us insight as to how we also may endure such trials.

²²**"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."**^[a]

²³**When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.**

Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴**He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.**

²⁵**For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**

-

When Jesus was unjustly treated, He did not retaliate (v. 23).

-Instead, He trusted His situation to God the Father, who

is just and righteous, and who will ultimately deal with all offenders (v. 23).

-Jesus did not sin; He did not lash out with hateful or careless words (v. 22).

-Jesus suffered, for the purpose of healing those who offended Him (v. 24).

-He had the best interest of His enemies—and not Himself—in mind.

-Following His example is the only way believers can endure suffering.

-To retaliate is to assume a right they do not have (Rom. 12:19).

-God takes responsibility for dealing with the offending party.

-Believers also are responsible for making the right response, then trusting the offender to God.

2:24 The purpose of Christ's bearing our sins is that we might live to please Him. **by whose stripes:**

-The Greek word for *stripes* is singular rather than plural.

-Thus our spiritual healing comes neither from Jesus' day-to-day sufferings nor from His sufferings that led to the Cross, but from the one ultimate wound—His death.

Click

Submission to Earthly Authority Depends on our trust in God's Supreme Authority

-the civil responsibility of Christians is made clear to Peter's audience

-He does not advocate rebellion

-He does not endorse civil disobedience

his focus is for people to submit

-That is to say

-To voluntarily be subject oneself to those that have and are in authority

-notice in particular where Peter places this instruction in his letter
-it mixes well with previous verses that speak of who they are and who God has made them
-The submission text comes right after Peter telling his people to view themselves as foreigners and exiles
-if they view themselves as foreigners and exiles they may also believe themselves apart or above governing authorities and that is what Peter wants to guard against by outlining their need to submit to governing authorities
-the intent of viewing oneself as foreign to this world is to have one identify more with God and godly living not rebellion against governing authorities

-thus whether it be an employer or a police officer or prime minister or premier we are urged to voluntarily subject ourselves to the authority
-the basis for this submission is not fear or feelings of obligation or desire to please and impress those in authority
-our desire to submit to those in authority is out of desire to be obedient to God

¹³Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake

¹⁵For it is God's will
conscious of God.

commendable before God

-submission to earthly authority depends on trusting in God's supreme authority
-Peter is making a general inference on earthly authority, that it is, for most part, in line with God's will
-for instance most people in authority seek order, peace, and improvement over that which they are in charge of be it a country, a business or a household
-this is in line with what God wants
click

-we don't want to submit because those in authority are fallible and can make mistakes and they do make mistakes
-it is their flaws in character their poor, wrong, evil decisions and words that sow seeds of contempt, disillusionment and anger in those under their authority
-contempt in such situations is a natural response

Eg Lawnmower

-with contempt we do what we can to undermine the authority of those in charge
-it becomes socially acceptable to slander and malign those in authority as those subject to their authority feel helpless and powerless
-such contempt is revealed at the time of election
Eg B.C. politics "we don't vote people in, we vote them out."
Because of our contempt we feel justified in Cheating on taxes, fighting a speeding ticket you deserve, looking for ways to uncut or get around the law for personal gain

-such contempt for authority is not godly nor is it the will of God
-Peter tells us that we are to respect everyone with special and specific reference to those in authority over us
-he asks this not on the condition that those in authority are nice, godly, or respectable people
-quite the contrary he knows that people will be treated unjustly but it does not condone revenge or anything less than respect
-in fact Peter teaches that it is a privilege because we are being counted as worthy of suffering for God
eg Acts 5:41 *The apostles left the Sanhedrin rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.*

click

- Is it difficult to respect and submit to those who are in authority over us?
- heavens no
- it's impossible
- it cannot be done if we doubt in the supremacy of God over all authority from prime ministers to governors to mayors to policemen to employers, and managers when we are mistreated
- we must and will submit and respect every authority instituted by man in accordance with the submission and respect we have for God

Click

- if we choose to believe that God is supreme in authority and power then we will be able to submit to earthly authority
- if we choose to believe that he is the shepherd and overseer of our souls
- if we choose to believe that God is supreme and in control of those who govern our lives -then we will not complain about our
- if we choose to believe than we will not slander those in authority over us even though we may disagree with their policies, laws and actions

- consider the difference there would be in our lives if we prayed as much for those in power as we complained
- When we complain, slander those in authority over us, or look for ways to uncut or get around the law for personal gain
- it announces to the world our doubt in God's supreme authority over our lives and our godless desire for this life

Rebellion against Earthly Authority Announces Our Doubt in God's Supreme Authority

-Peter realizes that the instruction on submission will not be easy to swallow for his audience

-it order to soften the instruction and encourage their attention look what he says at the beginning of verse 11 ***"Beloved I urge you.."***

-what I am writing to you I am writing to people I love greatly and with expectation that you are not founding your goals, aspirations and desires on this life more than the next

-Peter is both encouraging and expecting his audience to have this perspective

-because life is temporary

-because the after life is more important

-because we are members of a heavenly kingdom and not an earthly kingdom

-any problem is temporary no matter how big the problem is because life is temporary

-no matter how harsh or abusive the ruler is it is temporary

-how we stand up under this authority is what will count for eternity

-because of this our motivation for submission as is our motivation for doing all things is in desire to live a grateful and thankful life for God for his glory

-God has taken authority over our lives and determined an eternal destiny

-those who rule our lives now whether it be a politician or a boss rule only temporarily and have been placed in authority by God

click

-When we complain, we slander, disrespect, have contempt for those in authority we mar our witness and reveal to those who don't know Christ that we do not

trust God and that our desires are for this world more than the next

Eg tyrants

- Here is where our faith is tested
 - Here is the place where we doubt and believe that maybe God isn't in control of our circumstances
 - a good God placing a person in authority over our lives that is cruel and godless
- How can this be possible?

Click

Proverbs 8:15

`Eg Jesus Pontius Pilate John 19:11 "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above"

Click

- From our vantage point in 21st century the reign of Nero is a safe intellectual study on the consequences of a wicked and prideful ruler.
- But from the point of view of the average Christian living in Rome during this time period, Nero was an unpredictable despot who at any time might gather them up for a brutal punishment and savage entertainment in a Roman coliseum.
- It was a horrific time that required a deep faith in the Father who works all things for the good of those called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28), and who hears the cry of the helpless and brings vengeance (Isaiah 35:4).
- Nero's attempts to scapegoat Christianity for his own faults caused many followers of Jesus to hold up their heads, walking forward, leaving loved ones, possessions, and life itself behind.

-They became a spectacle to the watching Roman cosmopolitan world.

-Their trust in Christ, in the face of torture and death, planted the seeds of redemption deep into the earth, and generations who reaped the good fruit of their sacrifice are indebted to them.

-Peter is one those who was killed under Nero's reign

-I find it more that coincidental that the apostle would have written a section on submitting to authorities in the midst of the first great slaughter of Christians Nero, having much opposition to his rule from others in power committed suicide in 68ad

Click

Submission Meaning and Implications

- the majority of rules from governments and from employers are practical and beneficially
- there are laws to which we all must obey because they are for the betterment of the society we live in
- laws to ensure safety and mutual fairness
- the rules and regulations of businesses regard safety, maintaining the business as well as improving the business
- we are called to obey these rules
- we are commanded to submit to these people with two exceptions

click

1. we are not called to suffer unnecessarily Acts 22:25-29
-in this country and in most businesses if you are being treated unfairly you can and should go to a

higher authority such as shop steward or a governing body to file a complain respectfully
-you are not called to suffer just as Paul stopped them from whipping him
-are calling to suffer is when there is not other way out

2. We will not submit to laws or rules that are in contradiction to our faith
-we are to use those legal means within our power to protest and come against those laws and people that are contrary to Godly living
-for instance when not if the but when the Bible becomes labeled as hate literature we will not throw out our Bibles
-when it becomes illegal for Christians to worship because we have been labeled as intolerant and bigoted toward the laws of our country we worship nonetheless
-when our children are being indoctrinated with what the bible calls sexual perversion we not send them to school and we will confront the school board
-when we are threatened with prison or even death for sharing the gospel and bringing others to Christ we will take that risk, trusting in God's will over our Lives
3. We are called to uphold the example of our Savior toward authority including respect, honor and submission regardless of how our society feels about us regardless of what persecution we may experience

4. We are called to trust in God as our shepherd and overseeing us in this life and into the next. He is the one is caring for us and will care for us into eternity. We can and will submit to those in authority because ...

²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.