



1 PETER 2 : 13–17

*“The Baptist Church of Franklin exists to make **more** and **better** followers of Jesus Christ.”* — BCF Membership Binder

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. —Galatians 5:22-23a

OBSERVE

Peter says his readers are to be submitted to “every authority” including the “king” and “governors.”

- How are these authorities different from ours today? How are they similar? What do you believe is God’s intention for civil government?

Peter’s hearers were a tiny minority living under a dictatorship. Yet he tells them to live as those who are “free” (2:16).

- How could Peter make this claim? In what ways are Christians *free*?

Discuss:

- “I’m to be a citizen who submits to the powers-that-be. I am not to be a revolutionary. We don’t start riots. That’s not a Christian thing to do. We don’t start revolutions. And you could even argue about the American Revolution—whether that was actually, legitimately a Christian act or not.” - Pastor John MacArthur, interview

- “I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the very highest respect for law.” - MLK, Letter from Birmingham Jail

Some see Peter’s definition of submission to mean not obedience, but rather 1) refraining from violent revolt and 2) accepting punishment for obeying Christ.

- Imagine for a moment this is true. How does the gospel address concerns such as being treated unjustly, having our property taken from us, or even losing our lives?

Discuss:

- “The cross is not a sign of the church’s quiet, suffering submission to the powers-that-be, but rather the church’s revolutionary participation in the victory of Christ over those powers.” Hauerwas and Willimon, *Resident Aliens*, p. 47)