

ON GOD & GOVERNMENT, FAITH & FREEDOM

Independence Day, 2018

1 Peter 2:13 - 17, ESV

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1 PETER 2:13 - 17

“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS . . .

1st - We are submissive citizens of a government.

MATTHEW 22:21

“ . . . render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

ROMANS 13:1 - 7

“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. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 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, 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. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 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.”

Government is given by God for the restraint of evil.

ROMANS 13:4

“ . . . servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.”

Government is given by God to promote good.

1 PETER 2:14

“ . . . to praise those who do good.”



2nd - We are free servants of God.

1 PETER 2:16

“Live as people who are free . . .”

We use our freedom in Christ to model good lives.

We use our freedom in Christ to show God’s love.

1. We honor everyone, especially our leaders.
2. We care for the church.
3. We fear God.

1 PETER 3:14 - 17

“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.”

ACTS 5:27 - 29

“And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, 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.’ But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’”

HEBREWS 11:35 - 38

“... were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.”

We honor those who give their lives defending freedom in our nation.

Let us all give our lives spreading ultimate freedom among all nations.

