



## 1 PETER

### **The Public Submission, Social Service, Slavery, and Social Skills That Promote our God (1 Peter 2:13-17)**

**Dr. Nicolas Ellen**

- I. **The Public Submission:** We are to submit to every human institution accordingly. (v13-v14)
  - A. Because of our reverence for and submission to our Lord, we are to obey the authorities within the culture according to the parameters of their authority over us. They have the authority to punish evil doers and to praise those who are law abiding accordingly.
  - B. Our submission to governing authorities must start with the right submissive attitude of the heart being maintained, moving to the right action following that heart accordingly.
  - C. In summary, Christians are to be law abiding citizens because of our respect for and submission to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
  
- II. **The Purpose of Public Submission and Public Social Service:** We are to submit to every human institution and to do good within our sphere of residence to silence those unbelievers who speak from a lack of knowledge and a lack of good sense in relation to Christians. (v15)
  - A. It is God's will that we do what is right in relation to the governing authorities that are over us to silence those unbelievers who speak from a lack of knowledge and lack good sense in relation to Christians.
  - B. It is God's will that we do things that will benefit and show good will towards the society in which we live to silence those unbelievers who speak from a lack knowledge and a lack of good sense in relation to Christians.
  - C. In summary, God's will is that we submit to governing authorities and provide public social service to the community in order to silence unbelievers who speak from a lack of knowledge and a lack of good sense in relation to Christians.

**III. The Practice of Public Slavery:** We are to use our freedom from the penalty of sin, the power of sin and, soon, the presence of sin to demonstrate to society our slavery to God. We are not to use our freedom from sin as a means to continue practicing a life of sin. (v16)

- A. Christian freedom rests not on escape from service but on a change of master.<sup>1</sup> The truth has set us free from slavery to sin in order to be slaves to God, leading to serving Him as we turn from sin.
- B. Since we are free from sin, we are to choose to live in a way that honors the God whom we serve before the eyes of a pagan society to whom we have no similar obligation.<sup>2</sup>
- C. In summary, since God has freed us from slavery to sin, we are not to use that freedom as a license to keep on sinning but as a license to serve God.

**IV. The Presenting of Public Social Skills:** We are to relate to God and people within parameters commanded by God, resulting in demonstrating the greatness of our God to the public. (v17)

- A. We are to honor all men, which is to treat everyone with value or as precious cargo since they are image bearers of God.
- B. We are to love the brotherhood, which is to build strong affection for and to seek the highest good of fellow Christians, being willing to sacrifice our rights or privileges on behalf of fellow Christians when appropriate to do so.
- C. We are to fear God, which is a worshipful respect, reverence, or awe of God, leading to a careful consideration of all we do in the sight of God as we dread the consequences of disobedience to God.
- D. We are to honor the King, which is to show respect and value for governing authorities according to their role and responsibilities over us in society.

---

<sup>1</sup> Karen H. Jobes, *1 Peter* (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament) (Kindle Location 4253-4255). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

**Key points to Consider:**

1. Our level of respect and submission to God will be revealed to the society in which we live through our public submission to the governing authorities over us with the right attitude and actions.
2. Our level of respect and submission to God will be revealed to the society in which we live through our public social service of benevolent good will within the society in which we live.
3. Our level of respect and submission to God will be revealed to the society in which we live through our public slavery. This should result in being a living advertisement for the glory and grace of God through our character, conduct, conversations, commitments, codes, and choices being displayed within the society in which we live.
4. Our level of respect and submission to God will be revealed to the society in which we live through our public social skills as we demonstrate honor for all, respect for leadership, love of our fellow saints, and fear of God within the society in which we live.
5. These above things are not options but obligations as servants of the only true and living God.