

1. FIRST, GOD SPOKE VERY PLAINLY ... so receive the command to submit as simply, clearly and powerfully as it is given.

The three texts that deal explicitly with this subject leave no doubt that if we fully trust God and his word, then we will submit to and obey the governing authorities.

Peter's teaching here ...

- (1 Peter 2:13–14 ESV) Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

Paul's instruction to the Romans ...

- (Romans 13:1 ESV) 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.

And Paul's instructions to Titus ...

- (Titus 3:1–3 ESV) Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. 3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

What I have found ... and I hope that you will find also ... is that time and again the issue of submission ... **and really every issue comes down to these three things ...** 1) will I believe only God ... 2) will I trust only God ... and 3) will I obey only God ...

2. SECOND, GOD SAID EVERYTHING HE WANTED TO SAY AND EVERYTHING THAT WAS NECESSARY TO SAY ... so receive the command to submit understanding that neither Peter nor Paul gave any exceptions to the command.

Please take note and understand the significance that **neither Peter nor Paul in writing these instructions includes anything at all about exceptions.**

I intend to cover exceptions—biblical incidents of civil disobedience—later in our study. My approach will be to examine the various people and incidents where the word of

God and the word of either government or religious authorities conflict. What we will discover is that context will immediately solve the puzzle.

Possibly the most commonly referred to and misused text to support exceptions is found in Peter's words in Acts 5:29—"We must obey God rather than men."

- (Acts 5:27–29 ESV) And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 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." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

The irony is that Peter's words in Acts 5:29 are often used to disobey Peter's words in 1 Peter 2:13 ... where he commands the sojourners and exiles to "submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority." Scripture does not allow the cause of any person or group to take precedence over the clear command.

We need to understand that there is a very good reason—God's reason—for the exceptions not being a part of this instruction. As I said earlier, my plan is to later on look at exceptions—biblical accounts in the lives of Peter, John, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. And, of course, when the chief priests and the scribes tried to entangle Jesus with their question about taxes.

I would say this to the people who immediately want to examine the exceptions. You are missing the point ... and you need to examine your heart. Such a keen interest in finding exceptions to the clear teaching of God's word reveals an ignorant and rebellious heart which is reluctant to accept the clear teaching. And as with any deviation from the plain, major teaching of a text, the deviation grows to more and greater significance and importance in the eyes of the person than the clearly stated truth.

3. THIRD, THIS IS GOD TALKING ... so receive the command to submit as the word of our Lord.

This command comes from our Lord. We submit because we love the Lord and our obedience is evidence of our love for God and this obedient expression of our love for God is

evidence of our salvation.

- (1 Peter 2:13a ESV) Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution.
- (John 14:15 ESV) If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Submitting to every human institution is God's command. So we obey and submit because God is God, and in doing this we honor God as God.

- (Deuteronomy 4:35 ESV) To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him.
- (Deuteronomy 4:39 ESV) Know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.
- (Isaiah 45:5–6 ESV) I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- (Isaiah 46:8–10 ESV) Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, 9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose."

We submit because the Lord is God, and he **commands** his sojourners and exiles **with the expectation of obedience**. I know the expression is tired and worn ... but he is not giving us suggestions ... he is commanding us ... and he expects obedience.

- (1 Peter 2:13–14 ESV) Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.
- (1 Peter 2:13 NIV) Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority.

4. FOURTH, GOD IS NEAR ... the Shepherd of our souls ... comes into view ... he is now in plain

sight ... as we have drawn near with our hearts ...

Now we are "catching on" ... The person who receives the word of God (the command to submit) as the word of God now begins to know and understand God more fully—what God is doing and why he is doing what he is doing.

A. This person is building on the rock.

She is no longer a surface dweller satisfied with the superficiality of religion ... She is the wise person who has dug down to the substratum ... beneath the surface ... to rock.

- (Matthew 7:24 ESV) Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

B. And she knows the tremendous blessing of living on the rock. The storm came and went ... and her house stands ...

- (Matthew 7:25 ESV) And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

C. She rejoices in the assurance and security of life on the Rock. She sings with the psalmist ...

- (Psalm 18:1–3 ESV) I love you, O Lord, my strength. 2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

D. She grows in trust and confidence in the God of her salvation ...

- (Psalm 62:1–2 ESV) For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.
- (Psalm 62:5–8 ESV) For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. 6 He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. 7 On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. 8 Trust in him at all

times, O people; pour out your heart
before him; God is a refuge for us.
Selah

This person whose soul is being purified by obedience to the truth now rejoices as she begins to see God everywhere ... she sees evidence of the power and presence of God Most High in her world personally ... and the world world ... light floods her heart as she understands more and more the “why” of God’s command to submit to human authority structures.

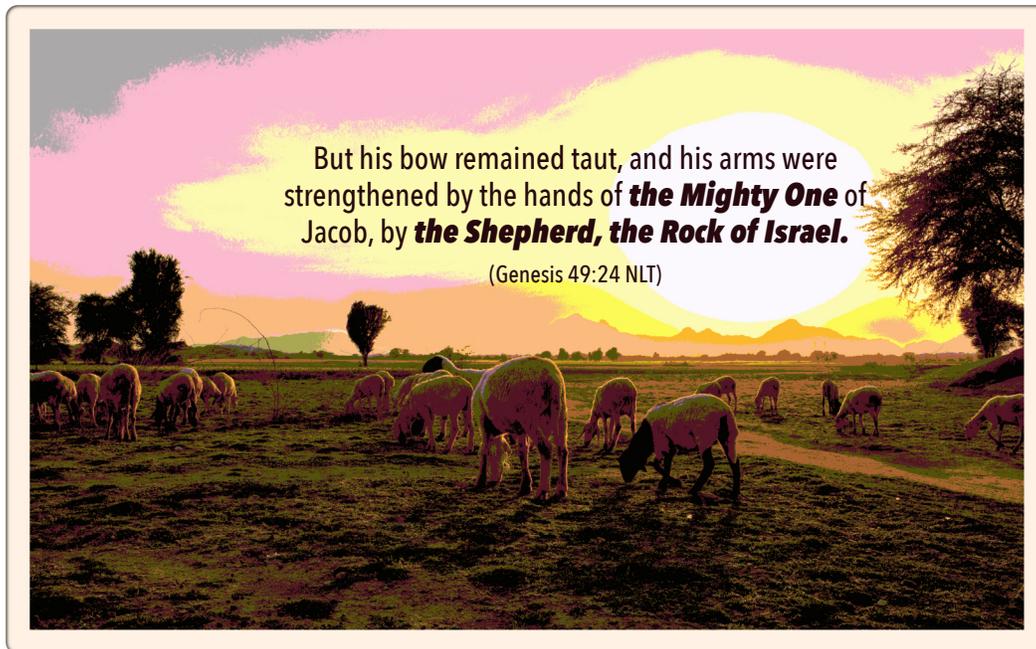
- (1 Peter 1:22 ESV) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.

This person sees beyond the superficial and begins to understand God’s care for us in providing the governing structures which are essential for human society to function, survive and thrive.

FINAL WORD ... LET THE LIGHT SHOW BEGIN
... let me read the Apostle Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians in ...

- (Ephesians 1:15–18 NLT) Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God’s people everywhere, 16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, 17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. 18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

So let’s pray with Paul ... that our hearts will be flooded with light ... that we would understand the confident hope he has given to those he has called ... and with this confident hope ... let’s be the strong, courageous people of God ... for each other and for a world in desperate need of a Shepherd ...



1 PETER MESSAGE 15 - The Loving Commands of the Shepherd of Our Souls, Part 1

1 Peter 2:13-17, 25 - ffc - dave scott - 032920 - STUDY SHEETS

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