**End week 7 begin week 8**

**Should Christians ever rebel?**

**When?**

**How?**

**1 Peter 2:13–25 (NKJV)**

**13Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,**

**14or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.**

* Submission as a way of glorifying God
  + To government
  + To masters – dealing with the hot topic of slavery and what the Bible teaches about it
  + In marriage – it’s controversial, it’s beautiful and right!
* Coming, submissively under governmental authority
  + Not be forced… it’s an active not a passive thing
* Every ordinance of man
  + The laws
    - Even if they are lame laws… (in your opinion)
      * We tend to think that any law is lame if it inconveniences us
    - We also tend to think “I know better”
      * Numbers 16 1-35 – rebellion of Korah
      * Holier than thou rebellion
        + Rebels tend to be rebels

“my pastor is a problem”

I’m the new pastor

They don’t like me anymore

* + Ordinances includes **Taxes** –
    - Give to Caesar what is Caesars.
    - It just doesn’t matter, obey God
* The king as supreme
  + BUT! We were just told we are a kingdom or priests, and have a heavenly nationality
    - Doesn’t that mean I can’t salute a flag or serve in the military or recognize secular authority?
    - No, it’s ok… they have authority over the earthly kingdom
    - Jesus said “my kingdom is not of this world”
      * It means there is NO COMPETITION between Christ’s kingdom and theirs.
* Or to governors, or to those who are sent by them
  + From the highest to the lowest… submit to authority
  + Sometimes we don’t like the PERSON in the POSITION
    - This is no excuse to rebel
    - Or to become bitter
    - Salute the rank
      * *Daniel 4:17b (NKJV) In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.’*
* For the Lord’s sake…
  + Not because govt is right
  + It reflects poorly on God when I am a rebel.
  + It’s really about my relationship with GOD!
    - Like everything else
* Romans 13:1–7 (NKJV)

*1Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

*2Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

*3For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.*

*4For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.*

*5Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.*

*6For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing.*

*7Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.*

* + Officials are agents of God… they derive their authority from Him
    - This doesn’t mean they are right
    - It means we are to recognize and submit to them

**A biblical view of government, obedience, taxes and rebellion.**

I’m indebted to “Christian Ethics”, by Norm Geisler, for the content here

Three views

* Anarchism
  + I’ll obey God and ignore government
  + Sin nature – rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft
* Radical Patriotism
  + Always obey govt. no matter what
    - It means all wars are just if govt commands it.
  + It’s true that
    - God ordained human govt.
    - ***Genesis 9:6 (NKJV) 6“Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.***
    - And we are to submit (Rom 13, 1 Pet 2)
  + BUT
    - There are just too many examples of disobedience which is commended by God
    - Josh 2 - Rahab
    - Exodus 1 – the midwives refused to obey Pharaoh’s command to kill Hebrew babies
    - Dan 3 – Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego refused to worship the idol Nebby set up
    - Rev 13 – we are asked to disobey the future commands of the Antichrist’s government
    - Acts 4:13 – we disobey govt. by preaching the gospel without restriction
  + We should obey government BECAUSE of God, not as though it IS God.
  + WHEN to disobey govt
    - When they ask you to sin or otherwise neglect a righteous duty
    - Not when they simply allow sin
  + HOW to disobey govt
    - 1st obey God not man
    - 2nd still submit in all other ways
    - 3rd it’s ok to flee (David, Jesus, Apostles)
    - 4th if caught and punished, submit to it
      * Like Daniel, Shad/me/abed, Jesus, Apostles, Jeremiah…
    - Civil disobedience vs violence
      * Simply not obeying vs fighting against the authority
    - Many examples from David, Daniel, Shad/Me/Abed,
      * Are consistent with this
  + Can we seek change???
    - YES! Do it!
      * Nehemiah, Daniel, prophets
      * Sought change within govt.
        + “it will never change”

Be hopeful

Joseph

* + What about revolution?
    - Exodus?
      * Nope, Pharaoh commanded them to go
        + This was a big deal to God
      * Then they went into a foreign land
    - Cyrus – another example
    - Israel casting off a foreign power
* What if there are two govts. or two legitimate authorities
  + Dual citizenship
  + At what point does allegiance change from an old govt to a new one?
  + Situational
  + Israel casting off a foreign power in their land

**15For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—**

**16as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.**

* This is the will of God – this is an important verse!
  + “who should I marry”
  + school? Live? Job? Ministry?
  + Who thought God would respond
    - “my will is that you walk in obedience to governmental authority”
    - His will? Do good
* Put to silence their ignorance.
  + They will have nothing to complain about.
* As free
  + From religious trappings
  + From sin
* Not using liberty as a cloak for vice
  + Some believers realize how free they are…
  + They even feel a sense of liberty to do all kinds of stuff that other believers would think is wrong.
    - Free from sin, never free to sin
    - Sin is vice
    - Don’t let freedom bring you into bondage
    - Rebellion is a vice
  + “don’t be a legalist” can’t be an excuse for sin
    - My freedom should never
      * cause others to stumble
      * allow me to become carnal
* through free I’m a bondservant of God
  + Doulos
* Free but bondservants
  + These truths held together
  + Are you blessed by this?
    - Or, oppressed?
  + James and Jude – bondservants

**17Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.**

* Honor all people
  + Honoring all means I am behaving humbly
    - Pride
  + This is a winsome attitude
    - Giving everyone honor, a sense of worth, value, dignity
  + *Ravi Zacharias - “Conviction that is not undergirded by love makes the possessor of that conviction obnoxious and the dogma possessed becomes repulsive.”*
* Love the brotherhood
  + Again showing the special relationship we have with believers
    - Not just friends, family
* Fear God
  + Putting God above all others!
* Honor the king
  + Under God
  + Because of God