

1 Peter 2:13-25

Introduction:

1. The apostle Peter wrote two of the New Testament "epistles" [letters].
2. In his first letter, Peter:
 - a. wrote to Christians who were facing great trials (1:6-7; 4:12)
 - b. instructed his readers to "be holy" (1:15-16; 2:5, 9)
 - c. exhorted his readers to live honestly before unbelievers (2:11-12).
3. This lesson is a study of the information presented in 1 Peter 2:13-25.
4. These verses reveal three important principles that relate to "submission."

Discussion:

- I. (vs.13-17) CHRISTIANS ARE TO SUBMIT TO CIVIL LEADERS
 - A. Government:
 1. is one of the institutions ordained by God for man's benefit
 2. is responsible for:
 - a. punishing evildoers
 - b. protecting law-abiding citizens.
 - B. Civil leaders receive their authority from God (John 19:10-11).
 - C. God requires His people to submit to civil leaders, including national and local leaders.
 - D. An exception would be in the case of a civil law violating a law of God (Acts 5:29).
 - E. As servants of God, Christians are to be ideal citizens.
 - F. Proper respect is to be shown to God as well as civil leaders (Matthew 22:21).
 - G. Similar instructions are given in:
 1. Romans 13:1-7
 2. Titus 3:1.
- II. (vs.18-20) CHRISTIAN SERVANTS ARE TO SUBMIT TO THEIR MASTERS
 - A. Slavery existed in the first century.
 - B. In the early church there were:
 1. Christian servants (ex. Onesimus)
 2. Christian masters (ex. Philemon).
 - C. God required Christian servants to submit to good masters as well as abusive masters.
 - D. God is pleased when His people suffer patiently when they are mistreated for doing His will.
 - E. Similar instructions are given in:
 1. Ephesians 6:5-8
 2. Colossians 3:22-25
 3. 1 Timothy 6:1-2.
- III. (vs.21-25) CHRISTIANS ARE TO FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE OF SUBMISSION
 - A. In these verses Peter referred to the Lord's suffering as it was prophesied in Isaiah 53:4-12.
 - B. Even though Jesus was treated unfairly, He submitted to the Father's will as well as His own teaching when He did not retaliate.
 - C. Many people were blessed because of Jesus' submission when He suffered.
 - D. God requires His people to follow His Son's example so we can be a blessing to others.
 - E. Similar instructions are given in:
 1. Matthew 5:43-45
 2. Romans 12:14, 17-21
 3. 1 Peter 3:8-9.