

The World's
Hardest Activity

1 Peter 2:13-17



Summary of Today's Message

Some people are just gifted at music or naturally talented with their hands. Others find that sports come easy, while others can perform math functions with total ease. But there is something that practically *everyone* finds difficult and that is *submission*.

Summary of Today's Message

To abdicate our will to that of another, even for the sake of order and peace, is extremely tough. But there are higher goals and loftier purposes for believers to live submissive lives.

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SUBMISSION

I. The Principle of Submission (v. 13)

Submit is the Greek word *hupotassó*, which means to arrange in orderly fashion a group of soldiers under the ranking of a commanding officer

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SUBMISSION

The Culture of the New Testament

- *Politically corrupt, filled with tyrants
- *No democracy, no voting, no free speech
 - *It was an autocracy

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SUBMISSION

*Once a year, Roman citizens were required to confess
Caesar is lord

Christians did not do this and were persecuted because
of it

*Slavery of epidemic proportions: over half of the
Roman population was slaves

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SUBMISSION

Crushing and oppressive taxes

*Culture war

Pharisees and Herodians hated each other but tried to corner Jesus: Matthew 22:15-21

Not everybody agreed with Jesus' statement: Jewish nationalists called Zealots tried to kill their oppressors, based on Deuteronomy 17:16

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SUBMISSION

In an ungodly government, what is a Christian to do?
Peter said submit yourself to every ordinance of man

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SUBMISSION

II. The Particulars of Submission (vv. 13-14)

“Whether to the king as supreme or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, for the praise of those who do good.

The King was Caesar Nero

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SUBMISSION

Rome had 28 imperial districts and those imperial districts were all governed by governors or procurators.

Pontius Pilate was procurator or a governor

There were Law Enforcement officers for the government to use on behalf of Caesar

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SUBMISSION

THE PRINCIPLE

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man,”
whether it’s to the king, Caesar Nero, or to all of those
28 provincial governors, submit to them.

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SUBMISSION

HERE'S THE GENERAL RULE

Submit until submitting to earthly authority makes you not submit to heavenly authority.

You obey until your obedience makes you disobey God.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THIS PRINCIPLE

Exodus 1 “But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king commanded”

Daniel's diet: Daniel 1:8

Nebuchadnezzar worship: Daniel 3:18

Daniel's prayer: Daniel 6:10

Peter and other apostles: Acts 5:29

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SUBMISSION TODAY'S CULTURE

“Am I going to obey God or am I going to do what they say?”

POINT TO PONDER

You never need to fear the police unless you're breaking the law. If you are breaking the law, then you should be afraid.