



## INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

### LIVING FREE UNDER AUTHORITY

#### PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

Since Jesus has set us free, and our citizenship is in heaven, how should we respond to human authorities? This question becomes especially poignant when those human authorities do not respect our God and may even be unjust. The early church faced these same questions that we face. Opposition to the Christian faith was on the rise. Pockets of persecution had broken out and were increasing. In this context, the Holy Spirit, through Peter, gives clear direction to His people.

Believers are to be subject to every human institution, showing honor to those in authority even as they fear God as the ultimate authority. Peter says that whether it is in the realm of civil society, or of the workplace, or of the family, we must live as servants of the Lord, giving no one an excuse to speak evil of us.

As you read this passage, consider your own attitude towards those in positions of authority. When you disagree with them, do you still show them honor? Do you obey the laws of the land in which we live? Would someone who is looking for a reason to find fault with you be hard pressed to accuse you of insubordination?

While God is our ultimate sovereign, authority and judge, He calls us to show proper respect to human authorities and institutions as well, for His sake.

#### READING FOR NEXT WEEK:

1 Peter 2:13 - 3:7

Future hope prepares us for present living.

God given hope enables us to live God glorifying lives in hard times.

#### I. Be holy. (1:14-21)

- A. Be like our Father.
- B. Reverence for our Father who judges impartially. (1:17)
- C. Consider the cost of our salvation. (1:18-21)

#### II. Love one another. (1:22 - 2:1)

- A. Grounded in the community of believers being committed to the truth, which is found in scripture.
- B. Impossible apart from being born again.
- C. Rid yourself of five sins that tear at the very fabric of community in the church. (2:1)

#### III. Serve together. (2:2-12)

Spiritual growth always leads to spiritual service, together.

- A. Worship (2:4-5)
- B. Evangelism (2:9)

How does this apply to me?

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