

Sermon: Use Your Freedom Wisely

Text: I Peter 2:13-17 ESV

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Introduction: Love in the New Testament is defined by action. John Nugent in his book, *Endangered Gospel*, p. 97, shares that love is not just about language, but something we do, a language of acting. “When New Testament authors talk about how we care for unbelievers - beyond witnessing to them - they prefer language of acting nobly (Rom 12:17), extending goodness (Rom 12:21; Gal 6:10; I Thess 5:15), acting wisely (Col 4:5-6), living quietly (I Thess 4:11), behaving properly (I Thess 4:12), being gentle and courteous (Titus 3:2), and here in our text - showing honor (I Pet 2:12, 17).”

I. _____ Is Required by God’s People.

- A. relating to _____ authorities
- B. to provide a good _____

II. God’s People Will Not Abuse Their _____.

- A. and then be associated with _____
- B. but retain their new _____ and Master

III. God’s People Will Live _____ Lives.

- A. by honoring everyone
- B. by loving the brotherhood
- C. by honoring those in authority over us
- D. by fearing (reverencing) God

Conclusion: J. I. Packer wrote, “It is a paradox of the Christian life that the more profoundly one is concerned about heaven, the more deeply one cares about God’s will being done on Earth” (*Christianity Today* [4/19/85])

Our love for fellow Christians and our submission and honor toward government officials is a powerful witness. Thus we submit “for the Lord’s sake.”

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Submission to Authority

13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution,[a] whether it be to the emperor[b] as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants[c] of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Footnotes:

[a] 1 Peter 2:13 Or every institution ordained for people

[b] 1 Peter 2:13 Or king; also verse 17

[c] 1 Peter 2:16 the Greek word *doulos*

Psalm 46:1-3 The Message

God is a safe place to hide,
ready to help when we need him.

We stand fearless at the cliff-edge of doom,
courageous in seastorm and earthquake,

Before the rush and roar of oceans,
the tremors that shift mountains.

Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.