



Discussion Questions Set #1

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God’s will that by

doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.” (1 Peter 2:13-17)

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” (Romans 13:1)

1. When context is considered – the likely anti-Roman attitudes of Peter and the increasing government sanctioned persecution of Christians at the time of writing – the command to “honour” and “submit” to the emperor is surprising. What is it about honouring and submitting to human authorities that contributes to our following of Jesus or the witness of the church?
2. Why is it important to note that we are encouraged to go over and above expectations in our doing of good in regards to the human authorities over us?
3. How does doing good permit us to “silence the ignorant talk of foolish people”?
4. In sermon, it was suggested that our freedom in Christ does not entail license. Why is this crucial to consider when discussing our government supported individual rights and responsibilities?
5. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. How are these four behaviours related?
6. Think of the political landscape in our world at the moment. Discuss how you apply such scriptures to your own approach to the politics of our world. What kinds of attitudes and behaviours would be reinforced by this teaching? What attitudes and behaviours would be prohibited? When might defiance of human authority be permitted and what form ought this defiance take?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.” (1 Peter 2:18-21)

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:5-8)

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

1. The biblical commentary on slavery is a difficult one to apply in our world, given all that has occurred over the past 1900 years. Thinking of the examples of Joseph – he of the many coloured coat – and Jesus, what conclusions might you draw about the interplay of faith in Jesus, slavery/servanthood and obedience to authority?
2. By following in Christ’s footsteps, scripture reveals that some degree of suffering is ensured. Why is it important that we have a biblical view of suffering? How might this differ from our present worldly view of suffering?
3. Discuss the following statement: suffering for doing good results in God making good of the suffering.
4. Read Isaiah 53 – the Suffering Servant. As you read/listen to these verses, what thoughts come to mind in regards to injustice, submission and faith in Jesus.