

1 Peter 2:15-17
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Text: 1 Peter 2:15-17

For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: 16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. 17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Peter is addressing the church as ?strangers and pilgrims?

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as **strangers and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Honest lives among the outsiders

1 Peter 2:12 Having **your conversation honest among the Gentiles**: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your **good works**, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

A false accusation

Acts 17:7-8 **these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar**, saying that there is another king, one Jesus. **8** And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

Christians are against Caesar

John 19:12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: **whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar**.

Answer your critics by submission to Caesar

1 Peter 2:13-14 **Submit yourselves** to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

By resisting Caesar ? we may be resisting God

Romans 13:2 Therefore whoever resists the authority **resists the ordinance of God**, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Submission is not unconditional

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered and said, "**We must obey God rather than men**."

Do not resist Caesar's punishment

Isaiah 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

It reveals your trust in the Lord

Isaiah 50:7 For **the Lord GOD will help me**; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

Jesus taught separation between state and church

Matthew 22:21 ??Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar?s; and unto God the things that are God?s.?

Submission is the will of God

1 Peter 2:15 For so is **the will of God**, that with **well doing** ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

Well doing versus evil doing

1 Peter 3:17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for **well doing**, than for **evil doing**.

Liberty is not for sinning

1 Peter 2:16 As **free**, and not using your liberty for a cloke [or covering] of maliciousness [evil or wickedness], but as **the servants** [or slaves] **of God**.

The truth set us free

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free**.

Free from sin

Romans 6:22 But now being made **free from sin**, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Free from the law

Galatians 5:1-2 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith **Christ hath made us free**, and be not entangled again with **the yoke of bondage** [the ceremonial laws of Moses]. 2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that **if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing**.

Free from vain traditions of men

1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, as silver and gold, **from your vain conversation received by tradition** from your fathers;

Free from the fear of death

Hebrews 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, **the devil**; 15 And deliver them who through **fear of death** were all their lifetime **subject to bondage**.

Free from the power of Satan

Acts 26:18 To **open their eyes** (?the eyes of your understanding,? Eph.1:18), **to turn them** from darkness to light, and **from the power of Satan** unto God, that they may receive **forgiveness of sins**, and **inheritance** among them which are sanctified **by faith** that is in me

A perversion of the new covenant doctrine

Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, **turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness**, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 2:19 While **they promise them liberty**, they themselves are **the servants of corruption**: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

Christian liberty has its limits

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; **only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh** [?as an opportunity for the flesh,? Nkj] , but by love serve one another.

Temper your freedom with love

Romans 14:15 If your brother is being injured by what you eat (your freedom), you are **no longer walking in love**. Do not let what you eat (your freedom) cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died.

A paradox: Free ? but yet not your own!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own**? **20 For ye are bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God?s.

Servants to whom we obey

Romans 6:16-18 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, **his servants ye are to whom ye obey**; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? **17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine** which was delivered you. **18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**

Four commands to the servants of God

1 Peter 2:17 Honour all men [imperative mood]. **Love** the brotherhood [imperative]. **Fear** God [imperative]. **Honour** the king [imperative].