

STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, November 1, 2026
Teaching: *Submission 101*
Key Scripture: 1 Peter 2:13–25

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:
Monday: 1 Peter 2:13-25
Tuesday: Romans 13
Wednesday: Psalm 37
Thursday: Matthew 5:43-48
Friday: Psalm 40

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What is your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

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Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:
In 1 Peter 2:13–25, Peter teaches that following Jesus means responding to authority, disagreement, and unfair treatment in ways that honor God. Christians are called to submit to governing authorities and show respect, even when they disagree with those in leadership, because their ultimate motivation is devotion to Jesus, not agreement with the people in charge. Humility does not make Christians weak; it demonstrates they belong to God and can trust Him to judge fairly. When we experience mistreatment or injustice, we can stand for what is right without retaliating or allowing someone else's behavior to determine our own. Jesus is our ultimate example because He endured suffering without seeking revenge, trusting His Father to judge fairly. Through His death on the cross, Jesus not only provides forgiveness for our sins but also enables us to live differently. Submission to authority reflects devotion to God.

*Peter wrote to Christians during the reign of emperor Nero, whose persecution of Christians devastated Rome in AD 64. Peter wrote at a time when the hostility toward Christians hadn't quite started yet, it was more indirect. However, Peter expected the persecution to spread and wrote to minimize the tension as much as possible. Peter was eventually martyred during Nero's persecution in AD 64.

Questions: Ice Breaker: What's a rule you remember not liking as a kid, or a rule you still find frustrating as an adult? What made it so difficult to follow?

1. Read 1 Peter 2:13-25 together as a group. How does viewing submission as an act of worship to God change our attitude toward imperfect human leaders or rules? (See Digging Deeper)

2. What is the difference between biblical submission and blind obedience? At what point does a Christian's allegiance to God require them to *disobey* human authority? (See Acts 5:29 for cross-reference).
3. "Their behavior doesn't determine my behavior. Jesus does." What does this statement mean to you? In what situations is it hardest to live this way?
4. Verse 17 gives four rapid-fire commands: *Respect everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Respect the king.* Which of these do you find most challenging to practice consistently in today's political and social climate?
5. If we apply the principles of verses 18–20 to modern employment, what does it look like to show respect to a boss, manager, or corporate system that is unfair, dishonest, or overly harsh? How can we stand up for what is right while still responding with Christlike character? (See Notes)
6. Where is God inviting you to respond more like Jesus this week? Is there a relationship, disagreement, authority figure, or difficult situation where you need to show greater respect, exercise self-control, or release your desire to retaliate?

NOTES | Question 5—

1 Peter 2:18-20 is <u>not</u> saying:

- Stay in an abusive situation.
- Never report abuse.
- Never confront wrongdoing.
- Never use legal protection.
- Never speak up.

(Scripture gives examples of believers appropriately using legal rights. Paul invokes his Roman citizenship in Acts 22 and appeals to Caesar in Acts 25.)

"Patiently enduring" does <u>not</u> mean passivity.

- You can confront wrongdoing.
- You can tell the truth.
- You can report abuse.
- You can appeal a decision.
- You can use legal protections.
- You can work to change an unjust system.

But here's what you cannot do: You cannot allow their behavior to determine your behavior.

DIGGING DEEPER | Question 1—

The Greek word for "submit" is *hypotassō*, which means to place oneself under another's authority. When Peter tells Christians to "submit yourselves," he is calling them to choose to submit willingly rather than simply being forced to do so. In the first century culture Peter was writing in, servants and slaves often had little choice but to obey those in authority over them. But Peter calls Christians to a different kind of submission – one that comes from a desire to honor Jesus and show his sacrificial love to others.