New Life
CHURCH CRAWLEY

THE MESSAGE OF 1 PETER

The Message of 1 Peter 2:11-25 – A Living Hope

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Followers of Jesus need to have a *MATURE ATTITUDE* to *SUBMISSION*….

- **because it can be seen to be God's will** *(2:15)*
- **because it can be seen to counter objections** *(2:12,15)*
- **because it can seen to build community** *(2:16-17)*

Peter encouraged followers of Jesus to have a mature attitude to submission because it can be seen to be GOD'S WILL

- Peter didn't always have this approach – remember he tried to rebuke Jesus for saying he would die on the cross, Peter was the one who cut off the servant's ear!

- **V11** "dear friends" some versions "dearly beloved"

6 times used in Peters writings, the distinctive word used of God's divine love "***AGAPE***".

1 Peter 2:13 – the core thread of the rest of the teaching

The words “submit yourselves” are the translation of a Greek military term meaning “to arrange under the command of a leader.”

Could be translated, **“Put yourselves in the attitude of submission to.”**

- to create and maintain that ***attitude of heart*** which will always lead us to obey.
- human institutions, such as the laws of the land: because of their testimony to Jesus.
- believers are to submit “for the Lord’s sake”

NOT mere blind obedience – Acts 4:19-20 “What is right in God’s eyes”

“Governing authorities”, not every single person or decision.

- The emperor cult was popular in Asia Minor, and followers of Jesus felt social pressure to participate.
- Peter reminded his readers at the outset that rulers are merely creatures, created by God and existing under His lordship.
- A fine balance is maintained, however, in that believers still have a responsibility to submit to these authorities. Their submission, however, is not mindless.

1 Peter 2:21 Christ's suffering functions as an example to believers, He suffered for

"EXAMPLE" = children who trace over the letters of the alphabet in order to learn to write the letters correctly.

Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven".

James 3:13: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom"

1 Peter 2:17 onwards the section concludes with four commands

- The command to “fear God” is placed in contrast to honoring the king (“emperor,” NRSV).
- Believers are to honor the king and show him respect because of his office, but they are not to fear him.
- Only God is to be feared (cf. 1:17).

(1 Pet 3:6, 14)
only God should be feared as the sovereign Lord.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I thank You that You are trustworthy. I choose to believe You, even when my feelings and circumstances tell me to fear. You have told me not to fear, for You are with me, not to look about me anxiously for You are my God.

I confess any and all ways this fear has resulted in living irresponsibly, or in compromising my witness for Christ.

Today, I choose to live by faith in You, believing Your promise that You will protect me and meets all my needs (Psalm 27:1, Matthew 6:33). In Jesus name.