

Stand Firm: Standing Firm by Respecting Government
Sermon # 8, 1 Peter 2:13-17

Main Point: *Honor the government in order to display the gospel of Jesus.*

Getting to Know You

1. If you were the president of the United States what is one benefit you would really enjoy? (Have fun!)
And, what is one law you would work to pass?

Getting into the Book

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17

2. What does it mean to submit? Name some common laws to which we should submit.
3. What does this Scripture say as to why a Christian should submit to governing authorities?
4. How does a Christian's submission to the rulers of the land help promote the gospel? If possible, give any practical examples of how you have seen this in action.
5. Share with the group an example you've seen of how a Christian uses their freedom as a covering for evil (2:16). How did this detract from the witness of the gospel?
6. How can obedience to the commands in verse 17 display the gospel to unbelievers in Findlay?

Getting Out There

7. Do you find it easy or difficult to submit to the government?
8. Can you think of any instances where God's people are exempt from submitting to the government? See Exodus 1:15-22; Daniel 3:10-17; Acts 5:28-29.
9. What are some ways we can work to promote righteousness in our country through our government? (Some ideas from Pastor Blair's message: *Pray* for governing officials (1 Timothy 2:1-4); *Practice righteousness* by obeying the law, lobbying for righteous laws, and encouraging Christians to get involved in government; *Proclaim the good news* in our community in word and deed; *Partner* with ministries who influence government; *Perform your duty to vote*.)

Pray

Pray for God's work in the lives of our governing officials (you can print off a list of key officials and bring it to your group). Pray for God's help to be good citizens, so the gospel will shine through you. Pray for His boldness to stand firm for Him if/when being pressured to obey a law that opposes His.