

DOING OUR DUTY
1 PETER 2:13-17 / 9-4-19 / WED

I. WHAT'S OUR DUTY TOWARD GOVERNMENT AND ITS LEADERS?

- A. Simply stated, Peter says it's our duty to submit or obey our government leaders—2:13-14.
- B. Jesus also said it's our duty—Matt. 22:21.

II. WHY IS IT OUR DUTY TO SUBMIT TO GOVERNMENT LEADERS?

- A. First, for the Lord's sake—**2:13--..." Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake"**
- B. Second, it's God's will—**2:15a—"For it is God's will"**.
- C. Third, because it sets a good example of Christian behavior in order to answer unbeliever's criticism.
- D. In verse 16 Peter addresses Christians who evidently had been abusing the doctrine of grace as a "license to sin". Such behavior adds fuel to the fire of those who are quick to criticize Christian behavior—2:16.
- E. Paul joins Peter in calling for Christians to submit to government—Romans 13:1-2.
 - 1. Both Peter and Paul say there is no reason to fear government if we do what's right—1 Peter 2:14 and Romans 13:3.

1 Peter 2:14

....governors...are sent...to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

- 2. There are exceptions to this principle of submitting to government, as illustrated by the life of Peter himself—Acts 4:18-20 and 5:27-29.
- 3. The principle behind the admonition to submit is that obedience, even to an ungodly government, is better than anarchy.

III. PETER RESTATES OUR CHRISTIAN DUTY TO GOVERNMENT IN VERSE 17 WITH FOUR IMPERITIVES.

- A. First, respect everyone, even unbelievers—**"Show proper respect to everyone"**
- B. Second, love other Christians—**"love the family of believers"**
- C. Third, reverence God—**"fear God"**
- D. Fourth, respect government leaders, if not the person than respect the position—**"honor the emperor"**.

CONCLUSION

- A. Doing our duty, especially toward government leaders we don't like or respect, isn't easy.
- B. As Christians, however, we have no choice, because it's our duty.