

February 24, 2021

Submitting

If we are not to resist the powers or authority in our lives, what should our attitude be towards those in authority or leadership positions? As you read **Romans 13:1-5** again, what word is found in verse 1 and in verse 5? The word subject means to subdue or put under. Today we might use the word submit. Turn to **I Peter 2:13-15**. Peter begins this passage with the word submit. It is the same exact Greek word translated subject in Romans 13.

The word ordinance is translated from a Greek word meaning to build or create. In context it is speaking of the laws created by man. As believers we are to place ourselves under the laws of man, first to avoid punishment as evildoers and second to receive the praise of men for being civil. In our society we have seen rioting by those on the far left as well as those on the far right. The prevalent thinking is that if one feels they have been wronged by the authorities, they are justified in rebelling against those authorities, rioting and looting, and creating chaos and anarchy. Such thinking is ungodly and cannot be supported by Scripture and such behavior is wicked, evil, and criminal. Consider Daniel and his friends, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael. In Daniel 1, they sought to keep themselves pure from the king's meat and wine. They sought relief through their authority, the prince of the eunuchs. Read **Daniel 1:8-14**. What was Daniel's approach and how did the prince of the eunuchs respond? Turn over to **Daniel 3:12-19**. Nebuchadnezzar had made a decree which Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael, were unwilling to obey. How would you describe their attitude toward the king? What was the king's response? Did the king's response change the behavior or attitude of Hananiah, Azariah, or Mishael?

The key to submitting is found in I Peter 2:13. Our submitting is for the Lord's sake, not for man's sake. Turn to **Ephesians 6:5-8**. To be subject or submissive is to be obedient. Masters according to the flesh are the authorities or powers ordained of God in our lives. According to verse 7, when we are submissive, who are we serving? Because of whom we serve, what is our obedience not to be (verse 6)? Our submission is to come from the heart, knowing that our obedience will be rewarded by God. Verse 8 reminds us of the golden rule. We should treat others the way we want to be treated, because we will reap what we have sown.

Not only are we to submit to authority, but we are also to pray for those in authority or positions of power and leadership. **I Timothy 2:1-4** – Why is praying for those in authority important? Who benefits if God works in their heart? Who is pleased when we pray for them? What should be the ultimate goal of praying for those in authority? Consider **Proverbs 21:1**. The heart of the king is in the Lord's hand, and the Lord's hand is directed by the prayers of His people. The next time you are angry or upset with an authority in your life, such as your parents, teachers, or employer, instead of fighting against them in word or spirit, pray for them, that God would give them wisdom to make right decisions and then submit to them, trusting that God is directing them for your own good and His glory.