

## 1 Peter 2:13-25

**One Point: Submit to Authority by Remembering Who You Serve**

1. What was the worst haircut you've ever gotten?
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### Read v. 13-17

1. Why is submission a sticky subject for believers? What misguided interpretations of this concept have made it so controversial?
  2. How do you think treating those in authority with respect helped Christians in Peter's day gain a hearing for the gospel in their culture? How does "doing good" silence ignorant people?
  3. How can we relate to the government today in ways that gain credibility for the gospel?
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### Read v. 18-20

1. Answer the question posed in verse 20. What is the difference between suffering justly and unjustly?
  2. What type of heart change must we make to react appropriately to hostile authority? Matthew 5:43-47
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### Read v. 21-25

1. Peter talks about how Christ endured unjust suffering. How does Peter use that as an example of what it may mean for us to submit to an earthly master? How can we find encouragement from Christ's example?
  2. How does suffering and enduring hardships brought on by authority help us fulfill our greater purpose?
  3. What is something you can do this week that will help you refocus who is in authority in your life?
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## What I will be talking about

Authority is in place over us because God has allowed it to be. We suffer under authority for a reason; all earthly authority is part of a greater plan than we can understand. Suffering is an opportunity, not a sacrifice. Submitting to authority leaves us with spotless character and untarnished reputation, which is what Christ calls us to have. Submission makes us blameless in the sight of our peers, and it earns the respect of those around us. We are explicitly called to love those who love us AND those who are hostile towards us. We must submit to authority even when it isn't easy—even when we know it will lead to suffering—because we know God is sovereign and in complete control.