

What would usually comes to mind whenever we think of “God’s will for me”?

God’s will for me is _____

- Where should I study?
- My career?
- Who should I marry?
- Which ministry should I serve?

**Submit to
authorities**

Today's passage (1 Peter 2:10-17)

Submit to authorities

- Why should we submit?
- Why do we struggle to submit?
- What's the purpose of our submission?
- What's drives our motivation to submit?

An overview of the 1 Peter

What has happened ?	God's people were opposed , verbally & sometimes physically. Experiencing slander, abuse and discrimination	2:18; 4:4
What is the aim of the letter?	It declares the true grace of God. Written to encourage Christians to stand firm for Christ, even when it results in suffering	5:12
What is the author concerned with?	God's people may give in to sinful desires and using the freedom as a cover up for evil	2:11, 2:16, 4:2-3
How then should we respond to the letter?	We are to continue to do good as we suffer for Christ, for that is the will of God	2:15 4:2, 4.9, 4:19

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Correlations

How does “ do good ” look like?	citizens submit to their government,	2.13-17
	servants submit to their master,	2.18-20
	wives submit to their husbands	3.1-6
	husbands are considerate to their wives	3.7
	young men submit to their elders,	5.5
	Love one another	2.17 3.2. 4.2

Why do we submit? (Sometimes.....)

- Just want to stay out of trouble
- Just submit loh
- Out of fear for man



1 Peter 2:10 - 17

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received **mercy**, but now you have received **mercy**.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to **abstain** from **sinful desires**, which wage war against your soul.

¹² **Live** such **good lives** among the **pagans** that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your **good deeds** and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:10 - 17

¹³ **Submit** yourselves for the **Lord's sake** to **every human authority**: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

¹⁵ For it is **God's will** that by **doing good** you should **silence the ignorant talk of foolish people**.

¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your **freedom** as a cover-up for **evil**; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper **respect** to **everyone**, love the family of **believers**, fear **God**, honor the **emperor**.

- ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they **accuse you of doing wrong**, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

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1 Peter 2:12-15

- ³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴ They are surprised that you **do not join them** in their **reckless, wild living**, and they **heap abuse on you**.

1 Peter 4:3-4

What has happened?

God's people were suffering, verbally & sometimes physically

They suffered accusations and abuse

- Christians seem odd to pagans
- Authorities were hostile to Christians
- Subversive (Anti-govt)
- Cannibalism (Misunderstood John 6:53-56)
- Anti-social (1 Peter 4:3-4)
- Suffered injustice

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How should Christians respond?

Do good amidst suffering

- **Submit to every human authority**
- **Submit to emperor & governors**
- **Honor the emperor**
- **Proper respect to everyone**
- **Love the believers**
- **Fear God**

NOT to use our freedom as a cover up for evil (example to justify our rebellion against the government)

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Why should Christians submit to human authorities?

- **It's is God's will (2:15)**

What is the purpose?

- **Christ is Lord 2:13 & we will learn to submit**
- **Our opponents will be silenced and put to shame 2:15, 3:16**
- **God will use our good lives to 'win' some people to Himself**

Some of our opponents will even become Christians! 2:12; 3.1

Why do Christians struggle to submit to authorities in our fallen nature?

- When there are **injustice**
- When there are **flaws**
- Our **fallen** solution is to “remove them”, to “rebel”, “plot against”
- The root problem of **sin**

However

- If we **don't** learn to submit to authorities, we **may not** even learn to submit to God
- **Disobedience** to the lawful commands of earthly authorities is ultimately **disobedience** to God
- Because God **raises** up human governments

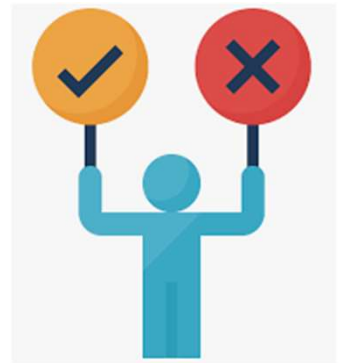
In these verses, Peter is not saying that all authorities are godly; rather, highlighting that it is the government's role to **execute justice** and to **restrain evil**.

What happens if there were flaws in the authorities?

- Peter is not calling for “blind” and unconditional obedience authorities.
- If a governor commands a Christian to do something which the Lord forbids (e.g. killing the innocent or deceiving for greed) then the Christian’s higher allegiance is onto God
- Submission does not mean we could not make an appeal

A question we can ask ourselves?

Were our responses made **“for the Lord’s sake”** and out of **“fearing God”** (1 Peter 2:13-17)



Submitting means "placing oneself below another person," out of a respect that is expressed in **obedience appropriate** to the relationship ~ Howard Marshall

Citizens to government

Slaves to masters

Wives to husbands

Angels & other powers to Christ

Young people to Older people

In reverence of God

Why drives our motivations to submit to human authorities?

For the Lord's sake



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graph TD; A[For the Lord's sake] --> B[Identity]; A --> C[Purpose]; A --> D[Imitate]; B --> B1[Received mercy]; B --> B2[Chosen people]; B --> B3[A holy nation]; B --> B4[Royal priesthood]; B --> B5[Special possession]; B --> B6[Christ is Lord]; C --> C1[Accusations and slander will be silenced]; C --> C2[our good lives to 'win' some people to Himself]; C --> C3[God is glorified]; D --> D1[Because Christians are called to imitate the suffering Christ]; E[For this is the will of God] --> C;
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Identity

- Received mercy
- Chosen people
- A holy nation
- Royal priesthood
- Special possession
- Christ is Lord

Purpose

- Accusations and slander will be silenced
- our good lives to 'win' some people to Himself
- God is glorified

Imitate

- Because Christians are called to imitate the suffering Christ

For this is the will of God

1. How would today's passage encourage us to submit to different forms of authorities even when it is difficult at times?

2. Our "good lives" can influence the non-believers and win some people to Christ. How would that applied to our work of evangelism?