

Own Up! #6

The Responsibility to Submit

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Peter 2:13-25

Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe the attitude you have towards people in authority, such as parents, teachers/bosses, government leaders, etc. Discuss with the group.
2. Read 1 Peter 2:13-25. It seems that in any society or culture, people want to be the boss more than being the one to submit. Most people view submission as giving up something personal and allowing someone else to win. In this passage, Peter gives us three principles of submission which as followers of Jesus Christ we have a responsibility to cultivate. First is to submit to those in authority (v. 13-17). For what reason did God institute government (v. 13-14)? Does God expect you to submit to a corrupt government? What is the only exception as far as submitting to authority over you is concerned?
3. Laws and policies should encourage the people to do good whether it is in government, offices, home and school. Share with the group real-life examples of how law can actually encourage people to do well. What did Peter tell the Christians NOT to do with their freedom (v. 16)? How do people use their freedom “within the requirements of the law” as a rationale to do something wrong? Discuss.
4. The second principle of submission that Peter teaches us to cultivate is to submit to our masters, i.e. employees to their employers (v. 18-20). It is easy to submit to employers who are gentle and kind, but

Peter also encourages submission even in the face of unjust treatment. Share with the group the unjust treatments that a person could possibly experience at home, at work or in school. What praiseworthy act is distinctive among Christians (v. 19)? How did Peter distinguish just and unjust suffering (v. 20)? Does being willing to submit to unjust treatment mean that it is okay to stay in an abusive relationship?

5. The third principle is a reminder that the ultimate example of submission is Jesus Christ (v. 21-25). Christ suffered for our benefit. He didn't deserve to suffer and go through unjust sacrifice in our behalf, but He did. Jesus Christ's submission and sacrifice led to your salvation. Describe how the Jesus dealt with His suffering (v. 22-23). Why did Jesus shoulder all our sins (v. 24)? What should be your response to Christ's submission to death in order to save you from your sins?

Walk

*“Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, Nobody knows my sorrow;
Nobody knows but Jesus; Glory, Alleluia!”*

Are you having a hard time submitting to someone with an authority over you? What example did Christ leave for you to follow? What specific changes should you make in your attitude and actions in order to live in submission for Christ?

Worship & Prayer

Father, to submit is one of the most difficult things to learn because it's also a lesson in humility. It is times such as these that I realize how much pride I have, pride that has no place in my walk with You. And so I ask for You to teach me, Lord, to be humble. Allow me opportunities to learn how to submit, and grant me people—mature Christians—who can hold me accountable should I not act according to Your will for me to submit. Grant me also wisdom Lord, to know when to submit and when to stand up for my biblical convictions. I ask these in Christ's name. Amen.