



"Silencing the Critics" (Part 4)

01071PET2.13-14(52)

1 Peter 2:13-14a



13 Submit yourselves to every human institution, for the Lord's sake, whether to a king as one in authority, 14 or to governors as those sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing right you might silence the ignorance of foolish men. 16 [Act] as free men, but not as those using their freedom as a

cover for evil, but as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brethren. Fear God. Honor the King.

– 1 Peter 2:13-17, As translated from the Greek New Testament by T. Bartolucci.

Introduction

* Drawing from the thought of verses 4-12

* You are to view your life in three ways: 1) as a _____ (vv. 11-12);
2) as a _____ (13-17); 3) as _____ (vv. 18-20)

▶ Looking ahead:

II. The Believer's Submission to Vocational Authority: Servants & their Superiors (2:18-21a)
III. The Believer's Example of Submission: The Suffering Savior (2:21b-25)
IV. The Believer's Submission to Domestic Authority: Winning Lost Husbands (3:1-7)
V. The Believer's Reminder toward Christlikeness: Inheriting a Blessing (3:8-12)

I. The Believer's Submission to Civil Authority: Silencing the Critics (2:13–17)

The phrase "silencing the critics" comes from verse 15 which forms the heart of the passage

A. The Command for Submission (2:13a)

"Respectfully submit to civil authority so that the critics be silenced."

1. The doctrine of concurrence (*concursum divinum*)

"God's cooperation with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do." [Grudem]

a. Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28; Acts 4:27-28

2. Biblically, governments are given by God for three reasons: 1) _____;
2) _____; 3) _____

B. The Motive for Submission (2:13b)

1. "For the Lord's Sake"
 - a. The account of Matthew 17:24-27

C. The Extent of Submission (2:13c-14)

1. It's to every human institution (government)
2. It's to every supreme leader (King, Premier, President)

"It's about the fact that God is sovereign and it's about the fact that we don't approach things the world's way, but His way."

3. It's to every secondary leader (governors, officials, civil servants, police/military)
 - a. Interpretive question: What is the antecedent of "him?" in verse 14?
 - b. In the end, it really doesn't matter, because God is sovereign!
4. Peter focuses on two specific reasons why these governments and leaders are given by God in verse 14
 - a. For the punishment of evildoers
 - b. For the praise of those who do right

Conclusion