

Living to Display God's Grace

1 Peter 2:13-17



1 Peter: Holy Living in a Hostile Land

... we would nurture a godly desire and a persevering commitment to take full advantage of the many **God-ordained opportunities** for showing the love and character of Jesus Christ through our submission and humility to civil authority.

The main emphases of Peter's letter can be divided into three sections:

Salvation (1 Peter 1:1 - 2:12)

Submission (1 Peter 2:13 - 3:12)

Suffering (1 Peter 3:13 - 5:14)

**Six characteristics of our godly submission
to governmental authority from 1 Peter 2:13-17**

I. The **WHAT** of Submission to Authority (1 Peter 2:13)

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As we submit to human authority **appointed by God**, we do the will of God, and we please Him in our testimony of faith. Our **instinct** and **intention** should be to obey human authority as an extension of God's authority **in and over** the affairs of mankind.

I. The *WHAT* of Submission to Authority

II. The **WHY** of Submission to Authority (1 Peter 2:13)

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Theology came to reflect the idea of the **study** of God, much like **psychology** (*psyche* = soul) is the study of the soul, or **anthropology** (*anthropos* = man) is the study of man.

- I. The WHAT of Submission to Authority
- II. The **WHY** of Submission to Authority (1 Peter 2:13)

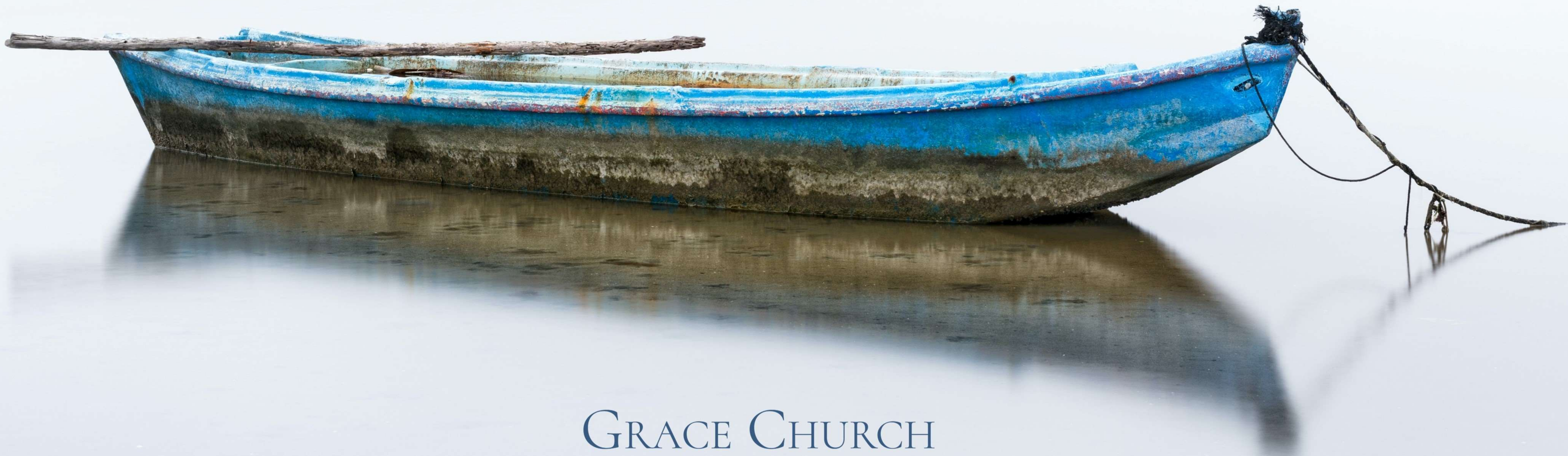
The **theological** foundation for our civil obedience concerns how our submission is **based on** our relationship with God. We cannot diminish or deny that our submission to **human** authority is tied to our submission to **heavenly** authority.

That is by God's design.

“... submission defines the Christian’s ways because ‘being like the Savior’ defines the Christian’s goal. Take note, the gravitational center of this part of the letter is the meekness and submissiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ (2:21-25). The one we are to imitate stands in the middle of it all. In essence, Peter wants us to follow in the footsteps of the Prince of Peace. It is for this reason that Christian men and women gladly and voluntarily put on the garment of submission. We are not operating out of some blind adherence to a rigid principle but rather out of love for the *one* with whom we have a relationship. At the end of the day, Christians willingly submit themselves to people in authority because we desire our lives to be pleasing to someone, not something.”

David Helm

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