



12 Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. 1 Peter 2:11-12 (NLT)

■ Submission is the action of Respect.

Respect:

To elevate (or to enlarge) our opinion of someone.
To recognize their value.

13 For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority—whether the king as head of state,

14 or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

15 It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 1 Peter 2:13-15 (NLT)

A question we need to ask ourselves:

■ Am I more American than I am Christian?

Why this is important:

■ Our submission to authority reflects our submission to God.

1 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

2 So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. Romans 13:1-2 (NLT)

■ God is in control of who is in control.

4 The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good... Romans 13:4 (NLT)

■ Submission is a calling for all Christ Followers.

15 It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 1 Peter 2:15 (NLT)

2 "To this you were called.." 1 Peter 2:21(NIV)

17 Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king. 1 Peter 2:17 (NLT)

We respect people:

● Though we might not agree with the person.

2 Pray especially for rulers and their governments... 1 Timothy 2:2 (MSG)

● Though it might not be easy.

18 You who are slaves must accept the authority of your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. 1 Peter 2:18 (NLT)

When I treat others with respect:

■ I act like Jesus.

21 For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:21 (NLT)

■ I ultimately trust God.

23 ...He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. 1 Peter 2:23 (NLT)

■ I have greater influence.

1 Wives, fit in with your husbands' plans; for then if they refuse to listen when you talk to them about the Lord, they will be won by your respectful, pure behavior. Your godly lives will speak to them better than any words. 1 Peter 3:1 (TLB)

■ I treat others as my equal.

7 ...husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for your personal time with God.

- What spoke most to you from Sundays Talk? Explain.
- Do you believe that Americans have a problem with respect? What about other cultures and countries?
- How does treating people with respect cause us to be different?
- Discuss the points under: "Why this is important". Which of these is most difficult to you? Do you find it difficult to respect authority that doesn't reflect your values?
- How do you think these Christians felt when Peter said "respect the king"? (He was the one persecuting them)
- Read 1 Peter 2:21-23. How does submission cause us to act like Jesus?
- How does respecting others allow us to ultimately trust God?
- How does respect, or submission, increase our influence?
- Is there someone in your life that you need to treat with respect? what steps will you intentionally take to see this happen?

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