



2,000 years ago, out of fire and blood, arose the most diverse and dynamic family that the world has ever seen. Originally known as "The Way", this band of brothers and sisters discovered their true identity in their leader, Jesus of Nazareth. After his death and resurrection, their movement multiplied as they welcomed people of every nation and race. Amidst this explosion, men like Peter wrote letters to encourage other believers who faced hostility from all sides. Two millennia later, these letters continue to inspire Christians in every corner of the world. For 10 weeks (Aug 18-Oct 20) at The Story we'll explore the letter known as *1 Peter* to discover our true identity and purpose together.

September 15, 2024 - The Power of Submission

Reflection Question: *What comes to mind when you hear the word "surrender"?*

1 Peter 2:11-17 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 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. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

The word "submit" in this passage comes from the Greek word "hupo-tasso". What is the literal meaning of that word?

There are 4 ways that Peter calls upon Christians to submit:

- 1. SUBMISSION BY ABSTAINING FROM _____ (2:11)**
What does Peter say is the result of abstaining from sinful desires? (2:12)

What sinful desires have you been compelled to abstain from and/or what sinful desires are you still holding on to?

- 2. SUBMISSION TO _____ (2:13)**
To what specific earthly authorities does Peter tell Christians to submit?

Who was Nero, and why was Peter's instruction to "honor the emperor" so extraordinary? (2:13, 17)

What makes the idea of submitting to governmental authorities such a challenge for so many people today?

What is the direct result of submitting to every human authority? (2:15)

3. SUBMISSION TO _____ (2:18)

How were most slaves in the Roman Empire seen and treated by others?

Why is it so extraordinary that Peter spoke extensively and directly to the Christians in Rome who happened to be slaves? (2:18-25)

To whom did Peter compare the Christians who were Roman slaves (2:21), and why is that significant?

Before speaking to those who were enslaved, Peter told all Christians - those free and enslaved - to “live as free people...live as God’s slaves”. (2:16) What does this mean?

4. SUBMISSION TO _____ (3:1, 7)

What is the ultimate goal of a submissive, Christian wife who is married to an unbelieving husband? (3:1-2) Have you ever seen this strategy work?

What does Peter say to Christian husbands, and what is the ultimate goal? (3:7)

What is the relationship between being considerate and respectful toward your wife and praying unhindered prayers?

What are the key differences between the way the world looks at “submission” and the way the Gospel defines it?

Of the four areas of submission Peter laid out, which do you find to be the most challenging and why?

Your Notes: