

## Submit to One Another Out of Reverence for Christ

Sermon June 26, 2022

**Scripture Readings:** Romans 12:21-13:8 and 1 Peter 2:13-17

**Golden Verse:** *“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority.”*

- 1 Peter 2:13

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***“Obey one another in the fear of Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)***

The key word in today's sermon is obedience. How are we doing with obedience? "Obey one another in the fear of Christ." What does this mean and how do we understand it today?

God told us today to give everyone respect. The word respect originally means to appreciate. God created everyone in a unique way, in His own image. Everybody can be appreciated and therefore respected. When we read about giving respect, it tells us to appreciate and to honour.

Let's see how we can honour each other, God, and our supremacy, the Queen.

1. Love one another.

We have a heavenly Father and we belong to the family of Christ. We must love one another as siblings. This is our common ground.

2. Fear God.

Fear does not refer to dread, but to worship and respect. We will never be able to truly honour people until we won't learn how to honour God. To fear God means not to be afraid of Him, but to have a very deep reverence.

3. Honour the Queen.

We are in big trouble with respect for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Could it be that, with the honour of God, the respect of another man is lost? Many today do not respect our leaders. Rather, they are devalued or scolded. God asks us to **PRAY FOR THEM.**

Everybody deserves to be respected.

In Romans 13:1-2, we read: *“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the*

*authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”*

Jesus in Matthew 22:21 says; *“So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”*

Romans 13:5-7 says *“Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.”*

1 Timothy 2:1-2 says *“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”*

In Titus 3:1-2, Paul is instructing Titus: *“Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.”*

1 Peter 2:13-18 says: *“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 ... Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.”*

Respect for “everyone” is especially true of those whom God has endowed with power. For those who hold office, it means to respect someone who is working for us. He or she should be respected even if he is not sympathetic to us.

The power of supremacy is a power received from God that is given to service. That is why government officials are called ministers, as are pastors in English.

Obedience experienced by fear, coercion, or compromise is not Christian behavior. A distinction must be made between reverence for God and what is due to man.

God must not be humanized, and man cannot be made an idol god.

God has called us to do good. Doing good is good! The punishment of the bad king must be accepted. If the king or Queen is a good gift, then we should be happy.

When we obey someone, we accept what they want or say. In the original Greek word, we find the meaning of submitting, subordinating oneself to someone. The obedient person submits himself to another's will. It is a decision that we make and we act accordingly.

*"Obey one another."* Here Paul is not talking about some military discipline or obedience. Rather, about a certain stance, paying attention to another, a loving atmosphere where people don't want to rule the other, don't want to oppress others, but pay attention to each other, and remain humble.

*"Obey one another in the fear of Christ."* Obedience is based on the example of Christ. Respect is also about how I give respect to others.

May we honour and respect God, love one another and may we honour our Queen and our Government accordingly, as a sign of our living Christian faith. Amen.