

Sermon Study Guide –

1 Peter 2:13-17

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Week of April 3, 2022

Title: **“Even Nero?”**

Sermon Idea: Ambassadors for Jesus represent Him in this chaotic world by submitting to governing authorities.

Key Points:

Ambassadors for Jesus represent Him in this chaotic world by:

1. Cooperating with government when possible.
2. Challenging government when necessary.
3. Praying for government always.

What do I want people to know? I want people to know that we are ambassadors of the kingdom of God called to make Christ known. To do that, we must maintain our personal integrity in the world by submitting joyfully to governing authorities...unless we're asked to disobey God. Then we are to respectfully challenge them, while faithfully praying for them.

What do I want people to do? I want people to (1) obey governing authorities, (2) respectfully disobey if necessary, and (3) faithfully pray for them.

What need am I addressing? I am addressing the need to live lives that honor God in the midst of a pagan society.

Recommended Resources: *“Bonhoeffer,”* Eric Metaxas; *“Readings in Christian Ethics,”* David Clark and Robert Rakestraw

Intro: Have you ever participated in a protest? What was it over? How did it go? Are you glad you participated?

Dig:

Day 1: 1 Peter 2:13-17 addresses the believer's submission to authorities. What is the basis for Peter telling Christians in his day to submit even to Nero? Why submit?

Day 2: Romans 13:1-7 commands us to submit to governing authorities. How would you summarize the believer's duty? What are we to do as acts of submission?

Day 3: Mark 12:13-17 contains Jesus' response to paying taxes. Why would someone object to doing so? What does Jesus advise? Why?

Day 4: Acts 5:17-42 is the example of Peter and John disobeying authorities. What principles for civil disobedience can you take away from this?

Day 5: 1 Timothy 2:1-4 urges us to pray for governing authorities. For what purpose? Why is Paul concerned that we do so?

Apply:

- Seek to joyfully submit to government rules and laws when they don't contradict God's Word.
- Write your state senator about your concern about legalizing abortion in CT.
- Regularly pray for your elected officials.

Pray: Father God, it is an honor to represent You in this secular environment. Help me to joyfully submit to the government out of reverence for You. Give me wisdom when I should challenge any unjust law. Help me to be faithful to pray for those You've placed over me. Amen.
