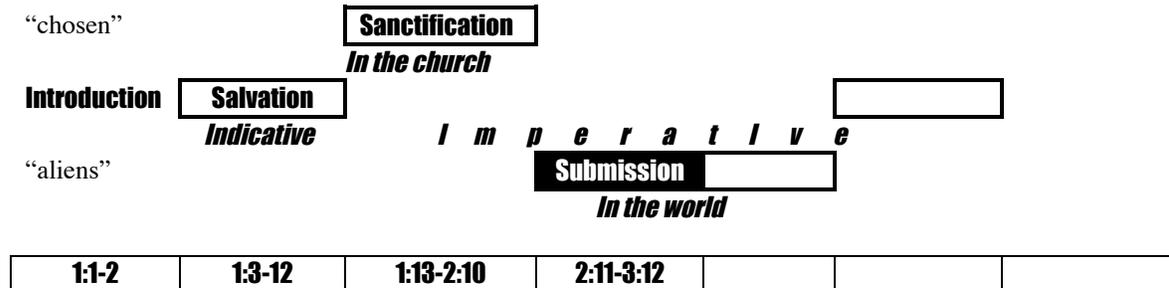


I Peter

The challenge of dual citizenship

I Peter 2:11-17



First

We are called to submit to God not the flesh.

(The welfare of our soul is at stake.)

“¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.”

What is the temptation that Peter has in mind here?

¹⁶ {Act} as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but {use it} as bondslaves of God.

Matthew 10:39

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

James 4:1-2

“¹What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ² You lust and do not have; so you commit

murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel.”

As aliens, how is our soul under attack?

Galatians 5:17

“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

How does the material that has come before (in I Peter) help us understand this section?

Second

We are called to submit to civil authority not personal autonomy.

(The witness to our hope is at stake.)

“¹² Keep (having) your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe {them,} **glorify God** in the day of visitation.

How is submission a witness to the world?

¹³ Submit yourselves **for the Lord’s sake** to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

How does submission show our faith in God?

15 For such is **the will of God** that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

How is submission a witness of our wisdom or foolishness?

17 Honor all men; love the brotherhood, **fear God**, honor the king.”

How are these categories related?

Other Texts that address this issue.

1. God is to be feared more than civil authority.

Matt. 10:28 “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

2. We have an obligation to both God and civil authority.

Matt. 22:21 “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

3. We should pray for those in authority and be thankful for them so that we can live in peace as much as possible.

Titus 3:1-2 “¹Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.”

I Tim. 2: “¹ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks, be made for all men; ² For kings, and [for] all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”

4. Submission to civil authority does not preclude appealing to the law when rights are denied.

Acts 22:25 “And when they stretched him out with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?””

5. Religious authority that does hinder the preaching of the gospel should be ignored.

Acts 5:29 “Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!”

6. Support of civil authority should be our first impulse assuming that civil authority exists to promote the general welfare. When civil authority does not serve the public good then we must proceed with humility and wisdom in challenging authority or in extreme cases, exercising civil disobedience.

Rom.13:1-7 “¹Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ²Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. ⁴For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of justice to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. ⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servant, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give everyone what you owe him; If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.”