

# 1 Peter 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

## Analysis

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Peter commands submission to governing authorities. "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake" (hypotagēte pasē anthrōpinē ktisei dia ton kyrion)—voluntarily place yourself under human institutions/authorities for Christ's sake. This isn't absolute (Acts 5:29—obey God rather than men when they conflict) but general principle. The examples: "whether it be to the king, as supreme" (eite basilei hōs hyperechonti)—highest authority, emperor; "Or unto governors" (eite hēgemosin)—subordinate rulers. Submission demonstrates Christian citizenship and deflects accusations of sedition.

## Historical Context

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Under Nero's increasing persecution, Christians faced suspicion of disloyalty. Peter's command countered accusations that Christianity undermined Roman authority. This echoes Paul (Romans 13:1-7) and Jesus (Matthew 22:21, "Render to Caesar"). Christians must be model citizens in all matters not requiring sin. Early church's submission to legitimate authority (while refusing idolatry/emperor worship) eventually won respect and legal protection.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How do you balance submission to governing authorities with ultimate allegiance to God?
2. What does submitting 'for the Lord's sake' mean for your attitude toward political leaders you disagree with?

## Interlinear Text

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ὑποτάγητε	οὖν	πάσῃ	ἀνθρωπίνῃ	κτίσει	διὰ	τὸν
<b>Submit yourselves</b>	G3767	<b>to every</b>	<b>of man</b>	<b>ordinance</b>	<b>for</b>	G3588
G5293		G3956	G442	G2937	G1223	
κύριον	εἴτε	βασιλεῖ	ὥς	ὑπερέχοντι		
<b>the Lord's sake</b>	<b>whether it be</b>	<b>to the king</b>	<b>as</b>	<b>supreme</b>		
G2962	G1535	G935	G5613	G5242		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Titus 3:1** (Parallel theme): Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

**Luke 20:25** (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.

**Proverbs 24:21** (Kingdom): My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:

**Jeremiah 29:7** (References Lord): And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

**Mark 12:17** (Parallel theme): And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.

**Matthew 22:21** (Parallel theme): They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

**2 Peter 2:10** (Parallel theme): But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

**Ephesians 5:21** (Parallel theme): Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

**Proverbs 17:11** (Parallel theme): An evil man seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.