

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	The Problem of Unworthy Authorities
SERMON REFERENCE:	1 Peter 2:11 – 3:4
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1958

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The passage of Scripture for today's message was written to Christians who were being accused and slandered by the enemy.
 - i) They were being accused of incest because they called their spouses "brother" or "sister."
 - ii) They were accused of cannibalism because they said that they were partaking of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus when they took the Lord's Supper.
 - iii) They were accused of insurrection because they said that Jesus is Lord, not Caesar.
 - iv) These Christians were hunted, hounded and killed because they were like the Lord Jesus.
 - (1) The servant is not better than the master.
 - (a) Matthew 10:24
 - (2) John 15:18
 - (3) Jesus was slandered.
 - (a) He was called a winebibber and a glutton.
- b) Anyone who lives for the Lord Jesus Christ will find himself going against the tide.
 - i) We're twice-born people in a world of once-born people.
 - ii) What we practice and what we believe begins at a different source, it follows a different course, and it arrives at a different conclusion.
- c) The chief weapon that God has given us in these days, other than our faith in Him, is the principle of submission.
 - i) This principle will close the mouths of those who oppose us.
- d) 1 Peter 2:11-12
 - i) The word "conversation" in this passage means "behavior."
 - ii) The "day of visitation" is not talking about when Jesus comes again, but it literally means "the day of inspection" or "the day of observation."
- e) 1 Peter 2:13
 - i) We are to submit ourselves.
- f) 1 Peter 2:18
- g) 1 Peter 3:1
- h) 1 Peter 2:15
 - i) Those who oppose God's people are ignorant and foolish.
 - (1) We silence them by submission.
 - ii) The word "silence" here literally means in the Greek language "to muzzle," like you would muzzle a barking dog.
- i) We exercise kingdom authority in this world by submission.
- j) Luke 7:1-10
 - i) This centurion who was under the emperor was also over his soldiers.
 - (1) We will never be over those things that God has set under us until we remain under those things that God has set over us.
- k) Kingdom authority is not for rebels.

- i) God cannot trust us nor give us the release of the Spirit until we know the restraint of the Spirit.
 - ii) Therefore, we're to submit.
 - (1) We're to submit to civil magistrates.
 - (2) We're to submit to those we work for on the job.
 - (3) We're to submit domestically in the home.
 - l) Today's message will deal with this principle of submission and the problem of unworthy authorities.
 - i) How do we submit to an ungodly government?
 - ii) How do we submit to a bad boss?
 - iii) How do we submit to a mean mate?
 - iv) How can we live this principle of submission in a wicked, lascivious age?
- 2) THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBMISSION (1 PETER 2:13)
- a) 1 Peter 2:13
 - i) We are to submit ourselves.
 - b) 1 Peter 2:18
 - i) Servants are to be subject.
 - c) 1 Peter 3:1
 - i) Wives are to be in subjection to their husbands.
 - d) Submission is one equal voluntarily placing himself under another equal that God may therefore be glorified.
 - i) Submission is simply getting under the authority that God has established, not for that authority's sake, but for God's sake.
 - (1) 1 Peter 2:13
 - e) God established authority everywhere.
 - i) God is behind all authority.
 - ii) When we submit, we're not submitting to some human being; we're submitting to Almighty God.
 - (1) When we do that, God begins to invest in us kingdom authority.
 - f) When we have a spirit of rebellion, we are like Satan.
 - i) He was the original rebel.
 - g) When we submit to authority, we are like the Lord Jesus.
 - i) Philippians 2:6-8
 - h) Satan sought to exalt himself, and he fell.
 - i) Jesus humbled Himself, and God gave Him a name that is above every name.
 - i) Philippians 2:9
 - j) 1 Samuel 15:23
 - i) Samuel told King Saul that rebellion is as witchcraft.
 - (1) When we have a rebellious spirit, we're practicing the same spirit that made the devil the devil.
 - k) As Christians, we want to live victoriously and have power over the world, the flesh and the devil.
 - i) Authority flows out of submission.

- l) Being submissive does not demean us; it exalts us.
 - i) It makes us like the Lord Jesus Christ.

3) PLACES OF SUBMISSION

- a) Peter mentioned three very hard places where we are to be submissive.
- b) We are to submit to a godless government.
 - i) 1 Peter 2:13-17
 - ii) At the time when Peter wrote this, Nero was the king.
 - (1) While still young, Nero committed his first murder, killing a teenage boy who stood in his way.
 - (2) He married at fifteen but soon had his wife killed.
 - (3) Nero married again but killed his second wife, also.
 - (4) In order to marry a third time, Nero murdered the husband of the woman he wanted.
 - (5) His mother annoyed him, so he arranged her murder.
 - (a) When that was unsuccessful, he murdered her without pretense.
 - (6) At age 31, he was sentenced to death by flogging.
 - (a) He fled and survived a suicide attempt.
 - (7) He persecuted the early church, becoming the first of the persecuting Caesars of Rome.
 - (8) Nero was in authority when Peter said, "Honor the king."
 - iii) Why did Peter write that we are to be submissive to governmental authority?
 - (1) Because verse 14 teaches that authority is necessary.
 - (2) There can be no civilization without government.
 - iv) An attitude of rebellion is as bad as the rebellion itself.
 - v) 1 Peter 2:16-17
 - (1) We are to honor everyone:
 - (a) In our social life
 - (i) The word "honor" is the Greek word from which we get our word "preciousness."
 - (ii) All people are intrinsically precious to God.
 - (b) In our church life
 - (i) 1 Peter 2:17
 - 1. We're to "love the brotherhood."
 - (ii) There is a special love that we're to have for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - (c) In our spiritual life
 - (i) 1 Peter 2:17
 - 1. "Fear God."
 - (ii) We need to bring back the fear of Almighty God.
 - (iii) Proverbs 1:7
 - (iv) America has lost the fear of God.
 - (d) In our political life

- (i) We are to honor the king.
 - 1. Whether our governmental authority is a king or president, the principle is the same.
- (ii) 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- c) We are to submit to a bad boss.
 - i) 1 Peter 2:18-19
 - (1) The word “servant” in this passage literally means “household slave.”
 - (a) It is not speaking about a domestic servant who is paid, but about a person who is a slave.
 - (2) At the time when this was written, a man would have a doctor slave to take care of him, a teacher slave to educate his children, etc.
 - (3) Slaves were not treated as people but as things.
 - (a) Yet, Peter said that slaves should be in submission to their masters as unto the Lord.
 - (4) We are to be very much against slavery, and what Peter taught here brought slavery crashing down.
 - ii) There is no better place for us to demonstrate the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ than in the work place if we have an unfair or an ungodly boss.
 - (1) Any pagan can gripe and rebel when things are wrong.
 - (2) 1 Peter 2:19
- d) How do we react to mean mates?
 - i) 1 Peter 3:1-4
 - (1) “That if any obey not the word” is referring to an ungodly husband who will not obey the Word of God.
 - (2) This passage does not say that it’s wrong for ladies to fix their hair or to wear jewelry, but just that the outward appearance is not their adornment.
 - (3) This is contrary to the wisdom of this world that a wife is to be submissive, even to an ungodly husband, but the Bible teaches that a home cannot function without a head.
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 11:3
 - (1) God the Son and God the Father are coequal and coeternal.
 - (2) Men and women are coequal.
 - (a) She is not inferior to him.
 - (b) Remember that submission is one equal placing himself or herself voluntarily under another equal that God thereby may be glorified.
 - iii) Galatians 3:28
 - iv) If a wife has an ungodly, unworthy husband, she is not to lecture him (according to this Scripture in 1 Peter).
 - (1) She is to love him.

4) THE PROBLEMS OF SUBMISSION

- a) Submission is not always the same as obedience.

- i) Our ultimate loyalty belongs to God.
- b) We're to render unto Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and unto God the things that belong to God, but never give to Caesar the things that belong to God.
 - i) An illustration of this is when the apostles were preaching the Lord Jesus Christ and the magistrates told them to stop preaching.
 - (1) Acts 5:28-29
 - (2) They submitted as far as they could.
 - (3) As far as we know, the apostle did not resist when they were arrested and thrown into jail, but they did not stop preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - (a) All human authority is limited.
- c) There are some commands that are qualified and some that are not qualified.
 - i) Here is an example of a command that is qualified:
 - (1) The Bible says that we're to live in peace.
 - (a) Romans 12:18
 - (2) The reason that it's sometimes impossible to live peaceably with all men is because we can't control other people.
 - (a) So, we must be submissive, if possible, as much as it lies with us.
 - (3) But there comes a time when someone will command us to do something that is antithetical to the Word of God.
 - (a) Then, we obey God rather than men.
 - (4) The greatest principle is that of obedience to God.
 - (a) It always takes priority over the lesser principle of obedience to men.
 - (b) We see examples of this throughout the Bible.
 - (i) In Moses' day, Pharaoh commanded all the little boy babies to be killed.
 - 1. But the midwives disobeyed and refused to do so.
 - (ii) Daniel was told not to pray.
 - 1. Submission is not always obedience.
- d) In today's political situation, we as believers in Christ need not identify the church with any political party but always with the kingdom of God.
 - i) We need to tell both parties to repent and get right with God.
 - ii) The church is not the servant of the state or the master of the state.
 - (1) The church is the conscience of the state.
 - iii) We will be civil, but we will not be silent.
 - (1) Nathan warned David.
 - (2) Elijah preached to Ahab.
 - (3) Daniel remonstrated Nebuchadnezzar.
 - (4) Eleazar confronted Jehoshaphat.
 - (5) Moses was a prophet of God to Pharaoh.
 - (6) As long as little babies are being aborted today, we should not be silent.

- (7) As long as we have a government trying to normalize perversion, we cannot be quiet.
- (8) As long as a freeborn American is told that he cannot pray vocally anywhere at any time, then we cannot be silent.
- iv) Nothing is politically right that is morally wrong.
- v) Government is here to restrain evil.
- vi) God's plan is a free church in a free state.
 - (1) When the government does what it can do (which is to restrain evil), then the church is free to do what it alone can do (which is to preach the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ).
- e) If a wife is being physically abused by her husband, the principle of submission does not mean that she stay in that situation.
 - i) Romans 12:18
 - ii) There is a time when there is a higher law that takes precedent.
- f) Our ultimate allegiance is to Almighty God.

5) THE PRICE OF SUBMISSION

- a) Submission can be the hardest thing we are asked to do.
- b) 1 Peter 2:19-23
 - i) The Lord Jesus handed Himself over to God.
 - ii) He had undeserved suffering and counted on God to even the score.
- c) 1 Peter 2:24
 - i) The Lord Jesus bore our sins; He took our sins.
 - (1) As an example, think of a doctor who makes himself sick in order to make the patient well and then turns around and pays the hospital bill.
 - (a) That's what King Jesus did for us.
 - (b) It wasn't fair, but we're thankful He did it.
 - (2) He left us an example, and we should follow in His steps.
 - (a) Philippians 2:9
 - (i) God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name above every name.
 - 1. God will do the same for us when we obey Him.
- d) The early Christians turned the world upside down because they learned the strength of submission.
 - i) They did not give in to evil; they overcame evil.
 - ii) Submission does not embolden tyranny; it destroys it.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) God gives authority to those who understand submission.
- b) We will never be over those things that God has put under us until we get under those things that God has put over us.
 - i) Have you surrendered to the Lordship of Christ?
 - ii) Are you under the authority of the Word of God?

- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16