Modern Day Idolatry : Personal Happiness

Greg Kline · 1 Peter 2:13–17

INTRODUCTION

- Perhaps this week more than any other, it is one of the most violated among the entire scriptures in the Word of God.
- This morning I'd like to discuss the Christian and showing honor. I think sometimes honor is lost in our society.

1 Created in the Image of God: Honor Everyone

Genesis 1:26–27; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 44:24

- So God created man in his own image. In the image of God, he created them. Male and female, he created them.
- What a blessing. What a privilege. And yes, what an honor to be created in the image of God.
- Know that the Lord, He is God. It is He who made us, and we are His. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
- We are uniquely made as children of God. And that means that I and you deserve a special honor from one another as we are God's children.

2 The Christian and the Government: Submit and Honor

Romans 12:1–2; Romans 13:1–7

- Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God.
- Pay to all what is owed to them, taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed. Honor to whom honor is owed.
- We need to submit to, yes, but we need to honor our leaders.
- To honor, what does that word mean then? To give respect. To place a high value, to revere.
- The problem is that I don't always honor people because I don't agree with them.

3 Honor the Emperor, Even Nero

Romans 13:3; 1 Peter 2:17

- It was Nero who Paul was under when he wrote the book of Romans around 57, 58 A.D.
- The problem is we think we should submit to and honor leaders who deserve it.
- God says, honor the emperor. God says, let every person be subject to the governing authorities.
- The truth is, Christians should be the best citizens in this world. We should be examples of what is good.

4 The Exception: We Must Obey God Rather Than Men

Acts 5:27–32

- Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than man.
- That exception does not extend to I disagree with this tax policy.
- We don't have to agree to submit.
- Paul doesn't say if you like him. Paul doesn't say if you voted for him. Peter says, honor the emperor.

5 The Why: Authority Instituted by God

Romans 13:1–4; Daniel 2:20–21; Isaiah 10:5–12

- Because there is no authority except from God. They were appointed by God.
- He changes times and seasons. He removes kings and sets up kings.
- He appoints who he will, he will use the nations to whatever end God has decreed.
- If we thought of our leaders as appointed by God, I would hope that would dramatically change our reaction to them.

6 Put to Silence the Ignorance of Foolish People

1 Peter 2:13–15

- By doing good, you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.
- But we need to be submissive. And if we are, people will notice.
- If I'm involved in all the slander and all the crossfire, I look no different from the world, and I'm supposed to be transformed by the renewal of my mind.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Taking advantage of the freedom and liberty that we have, telling everyone about the Christ, and if and when we don't agree, or even when we do, are we praying for kings and all who are in high positions?**

MY NOTES