

# First Epistle of Peter

## Part 4: Suffering as a Witness to Christ (2:11-4:11)

### Session 1: Submitting to Authority 2:11-25

Videos of this Bible may be found on YouTube under “Joseph Polzin”, or through this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHtqiS3iZfCsFPTp1bb-HrQ/>

- I. What does the term “sojourners and exiles” in v. 11 remind us about our identity? (cf. 1:1, 17)
  
- II. Read 2:12. Why does our behavior and conduct matter?
  - a. What might the world say about us anyway?
  
  - b. What could possibly happen? (end of v. 12)
  
- III. Read Romans 13:1-2. Where does a government’s authority come from?
  - a. Here is a chart of what we call the “Two Realms of God.” Notice that both realms have to do with how God works.

<b>How does God work within His Creation? Two Realms of God</b>	
<b>Left-hand Realm</b>	<b>Right-hand Realm</b>
Civil (e.g. government, home including marriage, nature, economy)	Church
Law	Gospel
Preservation of Justice	Forgiveness of sins through Christ
Earned Righteousness - earned by your behavior before the world (horizontal righteousness)	Declared Righteousness - earned by Christ given to you as a gift (vertical righteousness)
Reason	Grace
Sword, comes in power and strength	Word of God, comes in hidden strength
Goal: Preservation of creation (including human being)	Goal: Restoration of creation (including human beings)

- b. Which Realm(s) is/are a Christian subject to, according to Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2:13-14?
  
- c. Look at 2:14 and compare to Romans 13:3-4. What is the purpose of a governmental leader?

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- d. What might have been the charge against Christians that Peter is advising to “put to silence the ignorance of foolish people” (v. 15)?
- IV. Read 2:16. Do we have complete freedom as Christians because of what Jesus has done for us? What then are we to use our Christian freedom for?
- a. Read 2:17. How are Christians to live?
  - b. What is a Christian’s obligation when an emperor or king is oppressive?
  - c. What is a Christian’s obligation when an emperor demands us to do something against God’s Word? (cf. Acts 5:29)
- V. Read 2:18. Are there exceptions when a servant should not subject themselves to their masters?
- a. What is the example Christ leaves for us? (see vv. 21-25)
  - b. Then how are we to live in his example? (see vv. 19-20)
  - c. What does this look like in our lives today?
  - d. Imagine Christians don’t live this way, but the opposite. What would others assume about our faith and belief in God?