



**Have you ever experienced being ‘a stranger in a strange land’? Or have you ever felt out of place even in a familiar location? As believers, Peter tells us that, to a degree, this is how we should feel all the time! As followers of Jesus walking in a world that holds a far different set of standards than those we adhere to, we should feel like we are from another country.**

***Read: 1 Peter 2:11-12***

When you know someone is saying something about you that is not true, what is your reaction? How do you respond?

How does Peter instruct believers to respond, based on Jesus’ example?

**Peter takes on a tough subject in this next section of scripture: submission to authority. He puts forth the example of Jesus, and within that context, instructs all believers on how we should follow suit.**

***Read: 1 Peter 2:13-25; Romans 13:1-7***

How do you naturally respond to people in authority over you?

According to these verses, how should believers respond to those in authority?

How can our reaction to authority play into our witness described in 1 Peter 2:11-12?

How should Christians respond differently than the world when it comes to submitting to an authority we may not necessarily agree with?

Why does this matter? Why should we submit to those in authority when it might make our lives harder, more inconvenient, or might take away some of our rights?

**Make it personal:**

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17 again, out loud, either by yourself or as a small group.

How do these verses connect to the current social and political climate we're living in?

What might you need to adjust in your heart and your mind in light of this instruction?

What is God calling you to in terms of your speech, your behavior, your daily practices?

How are you responding to other peoples' political views, whether online or in conversation? Does it reflect the heart of Jesus?

**Prayer:**

*Father, thank you for being our ultimate King, for being our perfect Father, and for teaching us through Jesus how to respond to those in authority over us. Help us to live in humility and grace, submitting to earthly rulers in a way that honors You and witnesses to those around us. May we never tire of doing good, even if it produces suffering, and may we always look to Jesus as our example, knowing He has gone before us and will keep our path straight. Amen.*