

Authority. That word can bring up all sorts of feelings. Maybe you want more of it. Maybe you distrust those who have it. Maybe you think that no one in authority should be able to tell you how to live your life. But what does the New Testament teach believers about how we should interact with authority?

We will start by looking at the definition of the word authority: the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17

This is a challenging Scripture, especially for Protestant Americans- potentially some of the most authority-averse people in modern history.

What part of this passage is the most challenging or confusing for you? Why do you think that is?

In what circumstances would it be difficult to live these verses out?

Is there ever a time to <u>not</u> obey authority? (Check out Acts 4:18-20 for a clue)

Read James 4:6-7

What would it look like to live out this verse on a regular basis?

What does this reveal to us about God's heart?

Personal Reflection Questions to think about this week:

What do I say about God and His Word with the way I respond to authorities in my life? What can I do in my life to humble myself and submit myself to God on a daily basis?

Prayer

Father, thank you for the uncomfortable call to honor authority that You have established. I pray for the leaders of my country, my state, my community and my church. Give them wisdom and grace to lead well. Help me to submit to You so that I can better submit to authorities. But also give me the strength and the courage to share Your Word no matter what, whether authorities approve or not. Jesus, You are my King forever and ever. Amen.