

letter to elect exiles

FIRST PETER

#39

HOW A HOLY NATION LIVES AMONG NATIONS

JER.27:1-8,12-13,29:4-14/1PET.2:9-17

1) OUR STATUS: SOJOURNERS AND ALIENS

A. The Old Testament Pattern

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

Matthew 22:21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges¹ those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

B. The Usual Confusion in the U.S.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Titus 3:1-3 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

2) OUR FOREIGN POLICY: SUBMISSION

A. Be Subject

WCF23:4 It is the duty of people to pray for magistrates, to honor their persons, to pay them tribute or other dues, to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their authority, for conscience' sake. Infidelity, or difference in religion, doth not make void the magistrates' just and legal authority, nor free the people from their due obedience to them...

B. Be Doers of Good: Visible Benefactors of Society at Large

C. Be Aware of Your Moral Duties Toward Others: Honor, Love, Fear

3) OUR SUPREME AUTHORITY: CHRIST THE LORD

A. Secondary Submission to Gov't Based on Primary Submission to X

B. Submission Unlimited; Obedience Limited

Acts 4:19-20 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

Exodus 1:17 But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.

Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."