

# *Holiness & Humility*

## 1 Peter 2:13-20

It is, perhaps, one of the hardest struggles of the Christian life to learn this sentence – “Not unto us, not unto us, but unto Thy name be glory.”

-Charles Spurgeon

### **I. Responding to Civic Authority**

## **II. Responding to Private Authority**

### **Into the Bible**

Peter echoes Paul's admonition in Romans 13:1-7 and does so against the backdrop of real persecution under the emperor Nero. Christians were being accused of disloyalty to the state because of their refusal to worship the Roman gods (of which the emperor was one). If submission is not to be simple obedience to the government, what should be our stance when those in authority demand that we do something in violation of God's law? Why should we do this according to Peter? (Acts 4:13-21, Daniel 3:8-18)

Peter reminds his readers of the freedom we have in Christ (something we have learned in our study of Galatians), but like Paul, he warns them not to use this freedom as an excuse to sin. What is the temptation we are prone to in the face of unjust persecution? (Galatians 5:13)

## **Application**

Knowing that God sovereignly appoints rulers, as citizens of both the U.S. and the heavenly kingdom how should we approach the privilege and the responsibility of voting during this election season? (Colossians 1:16-17, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Romans 8:28)

## **For Families**

Talk with your children about what submission to authority really means.