



Heritage Alliance Church
March 17, 2024
Pastor Shawn
Part 15
Submit to Authority &
Live with a clear conscience

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God... it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience... Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.”

“...whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.”
Romans 13:1-7, 9-10

All authority is established by God

Therefore... All authority deserves respect & submission - 1 Peter 2:13-19

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21, Ephesians 6:5-7

Living a life of surrender to Jesus requires authentically loving others – This includes other believers, unbelievers, enemies, and those in authority.

Your conscience plays a significant role in living a life surrendered to Jesus

Conscience: Your inner awareness of right & wrong – The way you think and feel.
“renewing your mind... will be able to **test and approve** what **God’s will is...**” Romans 12:2

As a follower of Jesus, we will always experience a tension between submission to this world’s human authority and the Lordship of Jesus. We are dual citizens and therefore we need spiritual discernment to love well.

Are there times to defy the orders of authority? Exodus 1, Daniel 1-6, Acts 4-5

A Christian is to be a good citizen, until being a good citizen requires being a bad follower of Jesus by violating our conscience with the Holy Spirit.

Give honor and respect to those who serve in roles of governing authority?

Respectful in speech, pay taxes, obey laws – live with a clear conscience

To live in the New Covenant means to live by the command to love your neighbor as yourself, and to live with a clear conscience before God.

Questions for group reflection:

What challenges do you face in regards to living in submission to authority?

How does love and submission go together? Have you ever encountered a situation where you couldn’t in good conscience submit? How do you know when God is asking you to say no to authority to say yes to Him?