

ANCHORED

finding hope in life's deep waters



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A Study in First Peter
February 6 & 7, 2010
Ron Zappia

"Finding Hope in my
Authority"
1 Peter 2:13-25

These questions will help you take home today's message and enable you to apply these truths throughout the week. Harvest small groups use similar questions for discussion. Small groups meet at various times and locations and are designed to fit your stage of life. If you're not in a small group but are interested in joining one, please contact us at 630.281.4800 or visit our website at www.harvestnaperville.org.

Core Truth

We are called to submit to those in authority because that is God's desire for His people. He wants us to trust Him in this because all institutions of authority and all authorities are placed there under His control. As we willingly place ourselves under the direction of someone in authority, we bring glory to God.

Getting Started

1. If you were to rate your natural inclination for being submissive on a scale of one to ten, where would you place yourself and why?
2. When you were growing up, what authority figure was toughest for you to respect? Why?
3. Read the passage from 1 Peter 2:13-25 aloud and pray specifically that the Holy Spirit will reveal the TRUTH to you and allow you to respond in an obedient manner.

Going Deeper

*We **submit** to authority because God **commands** it. V. 13-14*

4. How might we understand the significance of "for the Lord's sake" in verse 13? Look at the following passages for some helpful insights: Psalm 103:19, Daniel 2:20-22, 4:34-37, and Romans 13:1.

*We **submit** to authority because God **uses** it. V. 15-17*

5. The phrase, "doing good" in verse 15 is really one Greek word which has the idea of doing what is beneficial to another. In what way is submission to authority a necessary factor to carry this out? See Micah 6:8, Romans 2:4, and 12:3-10.
6. How does Peter describe people who are free in verse 16? What does "living as servants of God" look like? Take a look at Romans 12:1-3 and Philippians 2:3-5 for a clear description for you to consider as you respond to this question.
7. In verse 17, Peter gives four imperatives that are representative of one's choice to "do good" and follow the will of God. Name the four imperatives and talk about what they mean and why they are important.

We **submit** to authority because God **rewards** it. V. 18-20

8. Often, even though you are a Christian, your circumstances may be difficult and not really change. The admonition in I Corinthians 7:24 is to "remain with God". If you do good and suffer for it and endure, the Bible says that "this is a gracious thing in the sight of God." It means commendable, finding favor, and finds its root in the word GRACE. Talk about some individuals in the Scriptures whose lives are examples of this truth.

We **submit** to authority because God **ordains** it. V. 13-14

9. Ron stated in his message, "when you make the choice to submit yourself to authority, you will not miss God's greater purpose; if you cannot submit to a person, you will never be able to submit to God". How does the example of Jesus, in this passage, provide a model for our living? Be specific.

Applying the Truth

10. If we are honest, we ALL have trouble with authority. What is God saying to you in this regard these days? After hearing the message and studying this passage, how do you need to respond to what you have heard? Share your thoughts with others in your group.
11. Think about a recent time you experienced hurt from another person who had authority over you. What attitudes surfaced in you? How could you have handled this situation in a way that reflected your commitment to follow the example of Jesus and the admonition of Peter?
12. Spend some time committing yourself to finding HOPE in authority by praying for one another and by offering encouragement to one another as it relates to authority.

Memorize

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. *1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)*

FAMILY QUESTIONS: ASK YOUR KIDS

Did you know that your kids are studying the same topics as you?

If you have a student in 4th/5th grade, junior high, or high school, we're providing you with additional questions to ask them this week. These questions are meant to let you in on what they're learning and provide you with a way to come alongside your student and help them apply what they're learning on the weekends.

Here some questions to ask your kids following the weekend services:

4th-5th Graders and Jr. High:

- Write down all the people that God has placed in authority over you.
- Are these people hard to respect and submit to or easy to follow?
- In what ways do you see God using those in authority over you to test you and refine your character? (ask your parents to help you with this!)
- What are some new ways that you can show respect and honor to the people that God has placed in authority over you? Grow in this today!?

Jr. High:

- Who do you have the hardest time submitting to?
- What is one thing you will do this week to better obey that authority figure?