

Peter's first epistle contains a similar message, and it was written at the outset of government attacks on Christians. Notice that Peter added the extra condition, "even if you should suffer for what is right" (1 Peter 3:14). No doubt many of them were.

So, where do we draw the line? At 80 kph speed limits? Peter drew one line in Acts 4:19, when he warned the Sanhedrin, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God."

We can be grateful that we do not live in the hostile environment of the first-century Christians. Most of our government responsibilities--paying taxes, obeying speed limits, not robbing each other--do not involve the choice between obeying God and the law. Even so, submissive, law-abiding behavior can be one way to witness of your faith in Jesus Christ.

Eli deserved his ticket, and he couldn't get out of paying it. But he does drive slower now. --JC

REFLECTION

- What is my attitude toward the law (choose one): Obey at all times? Catch me if you can? Speed limits are for losers?
- How can my attitude toward the law help my witness?
- *Lord, government is Your idea. Help me to have a submissive attitude toward the law and to show my faith through it.*



Central Mountains Baptist Church

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This Government !@#?!!

Eli was doing me a huge favour--driving me back from the garage where I'd left my car (fortunately, only for scheduled maintenance!).

We joked as we drove. Then Eli got real serious as he stared at his rear vision mirror. "Don't turn around," he pleaded quietly.

Then he frowned. "I don't believe it!" he moaned. "That cop wants me to pull over." The result: a speeding ticket. Seems that Eli was going 90 kph in an 80 zone.

I felt guilty. If Eli hadn't driven me from the garage, he wouldn't have gotten the ticket.

The law does intrude into our lives at inconvenient moments. Yet the apostle Paul admonished the believers in Rome to respect the government. For them the issue wasn't speeding tickets, it was full persecution!





I Peter: Overcoming Suffering Attitude to Authority

In 1 Peter 2:13-17 Peter commands that we have a godly attitude in two important areas:

1. To those in supreme _____, verses 13-17

(Ecclesiastes 12:13) "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all."

(Revelation 14:6-7) "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth; to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people; {7} saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.""

(2 Corinthians 7:1) "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

(2 Corinthians 6:17-18) "Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." {18} "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.""

(Philippians 2:12) ".. work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;"

(Romans 13:1) "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."

(John 8:32) ""And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.""

(John 8:34) ".. "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."

(John 8:36) ""Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

(Acts 5:27-29) "And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, {28} saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" {29} But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."



Lao believer



2. To all _____, verse 17



African Moslem in Ndungu Kebbe

(Genesis 1:26) "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ...""

(Genesis 9:6) ""Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man."

(James 3:9) "With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God."

(John 13:35) ""By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.""