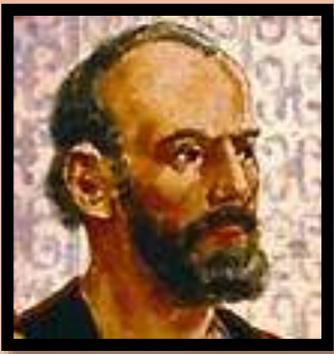


SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS



Lesson 4 for April 22, 2017



**PETER'S
TEACHING
ON...**

1

**Relationships with the
State (1 Peter 2:13-17)**

2

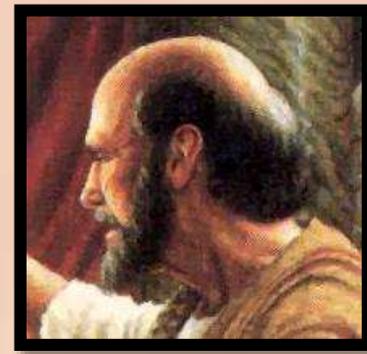
**Work relationships
(1 Peter 2:18-25)**

3

**Marital relationships
(1 Peter 3:1-7)**

BOUNDARIES IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

5



**PAUL'S
TEACHING
ON...**

4

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STATE

1 Peter 2:13-17

“Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.” (1 Peter 2:13-14)

“Honor the king.” (1P. 2:17). The “king” Peter was talking about was Nero. He beheaded Paul, crucified Peter and killed many Christians.

Why should we submit to human institutions even when they don’t seem worthy to be honored?

Despite their serious defects, the Roman Empire brought peace, stable means of communication, a legal system that is still used nowadays...

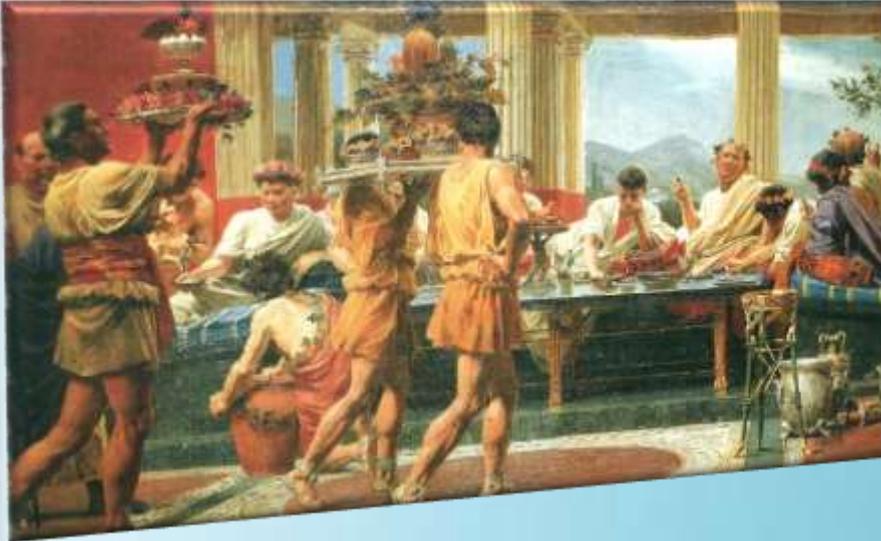
We must be model citizens “for the Lord’s sake.” He has given the human institutions permission to govern this Earth.



WORK RELATIONSHIPS

1 Peter 2:18-25

**“Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.”
(1 Peter 2:18)**

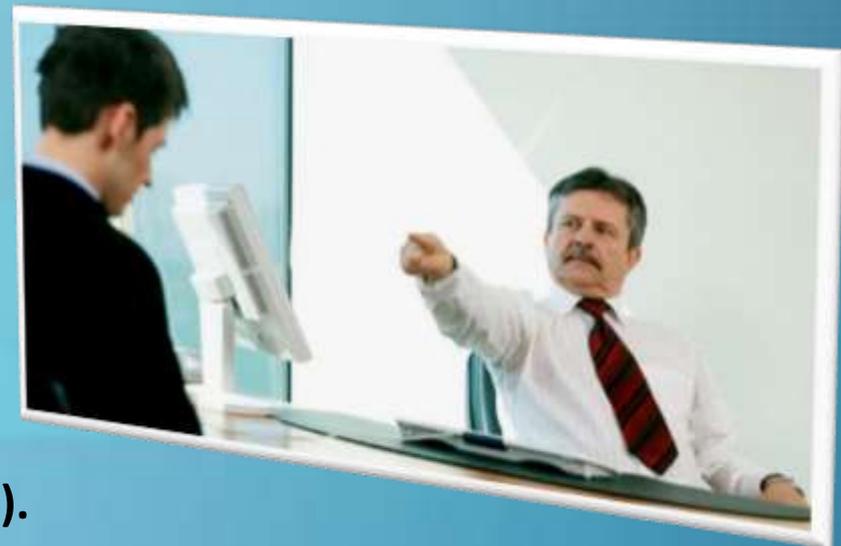


Slavery was very common in the Roman Empire. The master was the owner of the slave’s life, but the slave could be released by redemption (Eph. 1:7; Ro. 3:24; Col. 1:14).

The servants in this verse were household slaves that could have important responsibilities.

The counsels to the servants are still valid to the 21st Century workers:

- ✂ They must submit to their superiors with gentleness (v. 18-19).**
- ✂ They must do nothing that could make them worthy of reprimand (v. 20-22).**
- ✂ They must not return bad manner and must not use any violence or threatening (v. 23-25).**



MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS

1 Peter 3:1-7

“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives.”

(1 Peter 3:1)

Peter advised on how a Christian wife should treat her non-Christian husband (v. 1-4).

The believer must live an exemplary life at home so the non-believer is attracted to Christ “without a word” but “by the conduct” of his spouse.



However, the same counsel is valid when both spouses are Christians (v. 5-7).

What can you do to win your unbelieving spouse?

MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS

1 Peter 3:1-7

"In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered."
(1 Peter 3:7 NLT)

COUNSELS TO WIVES

- Be submissive to your husbands.
- Be pure and respectful.
- Don't attract attention to your outer appearance.
- Don't waste your money in ornaments or expensive clothes.
- Let your greatest beauty be a character that is pleasant to God.



COUNSELS TO HUSBANDS

- Be wise on how you treat your wife.
- Honor your wife; she's the most valuable person in your life.
- Remember that she will have the same eternal inheritance as you.
- God won't hear your prayers if you mistreat your wife.

PAUL'S TEACHING

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STATE

- “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.” (Romans 13:1)
- “Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.” (Romans 13:5)
- “Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.” (Romans 13:7)

WORK RELATIONSHIPS

- “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ.” (Ephesians 6:5)
- “And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.” (Ephesians 6:9)

MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS

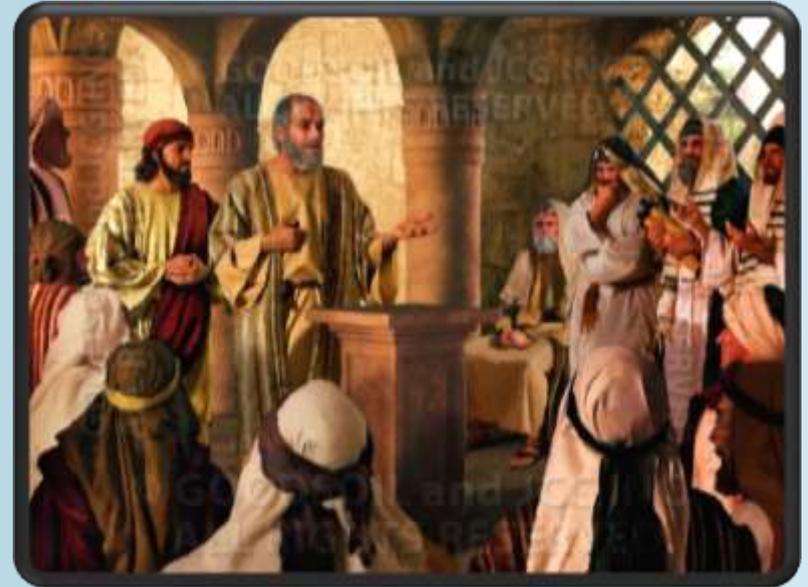
- “And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him... For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?” (1 Corinthians 7:13, 16)
- “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” (Ephesians 5:25)

BOUNDARIES IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’” (Acts 5:29)

The key word in Peter’s and Paul’s counsels is “to submit.” Submitting to the authorities, to the superiors, to the spouse.

Should that submission be unconditional or should it have boundaries?



1. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.” In case of conflict: God first, then men.
2. “and your neighbor as yourself.” A Christian may experience injustice; we should peacefully bring positive changes to those who suffer injustice.

ELLEN G. WHITE COUNSELS ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STATE

“We have men placed over us for rulers, and laws to govern the people. Were it not for these laws, the condition of the world would be worse than it is now. Some of these laws are good, others are bad. The bad have been increasing, and we are yet to be brought into strait places. But God will sustain His people in being firm and living up to the principles of His Word.

I saw that it is our duty in every case to obey the laws of our land, unless they conflict with the higher law which God spoke with an audible voice from Sinai, and afterward engraved on stone with His own finger.”

ELLEN G. WHITE COUNSELS ON WORK RELATIONSHIPS

“So long as we are in the world, we must have to do with the things of the world. There will ever be a necessity for the transaction of temporal, secular business; but this should never become all-absorbing... Whatever our department of labor, be it housework or field work or intellectual pursuits, we may perform it to the glory of God so long as we make Christ first and last and best in everything.”

E.G.W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, cp. 52, p. 434)

“Those who claim to be the children of God are in no case to bind up with the labor unions that are formed or that shall be formed. This the Lord forbids. Cannot those who study the prophecies see and understand what is before us?”

E.G.W. (Selected Messages, vol. 2, cp. 14, p. 144)

ELLEN G. WHITE COUNSELS ON MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS

“The Lord Jesus has not been correctly represented in His relation to the church by many husbands in their relation to their wives, for they do not keep the way of the Lord. They declare that their wives must be subject to them in everything. But it was not the design of God that the husband should have control, as head of the house, when he himself does not submit to Christ. He must be under the rule of Christ that he may represent the relation of Christ to the church. If he is a coarse, rough, boisterous, egotistical, harsh, and overbearing man, let him never utter the word that the husband is the head of the wife, and that she must submit to him in everything; for he is not the Lord, he is not the husband in the true significance of the term.”