

# The Book of 1 Peter

## Biblical Citizenship!

1 Peter 2:13-17

Pastor Mel Svendsen  
January 4, 2026

### Bottom Line:

Christians belong most importantly to a higher kingdom. Therefore, we ought to live as faithful, respectful, and God-honoring citizens in this world for the sake of the Gospel.

**Intro:** Few topics generate more emotion in the church than government, politics, and citizenship.

We live in a deeply polarized culture. News media “barrages” are relentless. Social media rewards outrage. Our attitudes and actions, however, are informed by the Word of God as we seek to be biblical citizens that lift up Jesus!

**1. Believers should be subject to authorities on earth as an act of submission to God!**

*1 Peter 2:13-14; Romans 13:1; Titus 3:1*

### God's Will – Four types

- 1. God's Sovereign Will**
- 2. God's Revealed Will**
- 3. God's Individual Will**
- 4. God's Permissive Will**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
wrote:

***"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."***



***Acts 5:29 clarifies our approach to authority:***

***"We must obey God rather than men."***

***When government commands what God forbids or forbids what God commands... faithful Christians obey God***

**2. Believers should be exemplary citizens as a witness to a lost world! 1 Peter 2:15-16**

### **Good citizenship:**

**Law abiding**

**Honest**

**Peaceful**

**Respectful**

**Positive impact in the church and in the community!**

*God desires: (v. 16)*

- People to have freedom*
- People to have freedom to believe in God if they so choose but not to have belief forced on anyone.*
- People to use their freedom to do good to others, not evil.*

**3. Believers should always elevate God and His plans above earthly allegiances!**

*1 Peter 2:17; Matthew 22:21*