



Series: Refined

Sermon: Part 4: Following In His Footsteps

Date: Sunday, March 9th, 2025

When it comes to our rights and freedoms, we need to look at how we are exercising our rights when we are in community with others.

Submission To Various Authorities:

a. Governing authority

Scripture referenced in sermon message: 1 Peter 2:13-14 NLT

_____ : to yield to the authority or will of another

“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”... “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:3,5)

Because our identity is in God and we are His children, we are called by God to have a different _____ when it comes to submitting to authority.

“Let Us make man in Our image” (Genesis 1:26)

“The man has now become like Us” (Genesis 3:22)

“Go make disciples... and baptize them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19)

Those who are in authority are given that authority by God and they are expected to use that power to _____ and reflect God’s _____, rather than use their authority for personal gain.

Scripture referenced in sermon message: 1 Peter 2:15-17NLT

Don’t hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you’ve got it in you, get along with everybody. Don’t insist on getting even; that’s not for you to do. “I’ll do the judging,” says God. “I’ll take care of it.” Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he’s thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don’t let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good. (Romans 12:17-21 MSG)



Our posture is one of humility - surrendering and trusting that God will ultimately be the One Who will fight for us and administer justice in His timing.

b. Employer authority

Scripture referenced in sermon message: 1 Peter 2:18-20 NLT

c. Household authority

Scripture referenced in sermon message: 1 Peter 3:1-7 NLT

Christian submission _____ requires us to disobey God, remain in an unsafe or abusive situation, or violate our own conscience.

For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in His steps. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when He was insulted, nor threaten revenge when He suffered. He left His case in the hands of God, Who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By His wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls. (1 Peter 2:21-25 NLT)

Bottom Line: *You must follow in His steps. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when He was insulted, nor threaten revenge when He suffered. He left His case in the hands of God, Who always judges fairly. (1 Peter 2:21-23)*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. *Are we responding in a way that is grounded in our identity in Christ and in our selfless love for one another? Or are we holding onto our individual liberties and rights, even at the expense of other people?*
2. *When we do need to say something or speak up against authority, are we doing it in a way that is respectful, honorable, blameless and free from sin and evil? Or do we respond with hate, revenge, violence, unkind speech, gossip, and evil?*
3. *In the midst of injustice, are we laying down our will and our rights in order to serve others? Or are we demanding our own way and our own rights as we react out of our fear, trauma, and toxicity?*

Songs used in service: Hymn of Heaven (Phil Wickham), Run To The Father (Cody Carnes), Lord, I Need You (Matt Maher), Trust In God (Elevation Worship)

Any prayer requests?

-----Tear Here -----

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?