The Big Picture

*Finding God’s Purposes in 1 Peter*

Pastor Toby • Week 19 • 11/6/2022

**Dealing with Political Hostility**

1 Peter 2:13-17

Never Forget…

* Believers will face \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of various kinds. (2:12, 2:15)

How Should We Handle Political Hostility?

1. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…we don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (2:13-14)

How should we engage?

* + By \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ laws.
  + By \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ taxes.
  + By \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the culture…we don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it. (2:15-16)
2. We show \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…we don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in fear. (2:17)

What does respect look like?

* + “You have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
  + “Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in society is important.”
  + “I appreciate the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things you do.”

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Debrief Plan: 11/6/2022

**Icebreakers**:

1. What is your favorite Christian non-profit group (maybe one that you’ve supported in the past)? What “good” are they doing to honor Christ in our world?
2. Who is the most persuasive and interesting political figure you have ever heard give a speech? What made them so compelling?

**Sermon Summary**: As spiritually alive people living in a hostile political environment, our responsibility is NOT to overthrow societal institutions but to engage them; NOT to exploit our freedom but to willingly serve society; NOT to cower in fear of government but to honor those who serve there.

**Discussion Questions**:

1. **Read 2 Timothy 3:10-13.** Paul tells us that anyone who desires to live a godly life WILL be persecuted. Why is that, do you think? What forms does that take in our society today?
2. What reasons could we give as Christians for NOT engaging with our political institutions today? Do any of them hold water in light of 1 Peter 2:13-14?
3. You may have heard the expression, “taxation is theft.” How does that idea square with Romans 13:6-7 and Matthew 22:21?
4. How can a Christian use their “liberty” as a cover-up for doing evil? Is “freedom” the highest value of Christians? Explain your answer.
5. What kind of “good” can “silence the ignorance of foolish people” who attack us as Christians? Have you ever seen this happen?
6. Is it possible to critique someone in government and yet still show “respect”, as 1 Peter 2:17 commands? What might that look like?
7. In 1 Peter 2:14, Peter lists some positive things that government leaders, even ones who are hostile towards Christians, do. What are some functions of our government that we can appreciate as helpful and useful to society? (Or, think of it this way: if you met the President in person, what are a few things you could genuinely thank him for?)