

## "Our Social Submission"

1 Peter 2:16, 17

### Introduction:

1. Submission to the will of God involves many wonderful opportunities and avenues of witness.

2. Specifically, there are two matters which concern our Christian social submission: what we are personally and what we are toward others. The first of these refers to our condition and the latter to our confession.

### 1. The Condition of Christians. v. 16.

Two vital words are thrust upon us here:

a. Freemen. Of course, this does not refer to social freedom, but to spiritual freedom in the Lord.

1) From the curse of the law. Gal. 3:13.

2) From the law of sin and death. Rom. 6:18, 22; 8:2.

3) From condemnation. Rom. 8:1.

b. Bondmen. Of course, this does not refer to political bondage, but to that which is in the Lord.

1) To God. Rom. 6:22.

2) To God's people. 2 Cor. 4:5.

3) To righteousness. Rom. 6:18.

How readily Psalm 116:16 comes to mind! It is evidently true that no spiritual freedom is to be employed to disguise anything which could be labelled wickedness.

### 2. The Confession of Christians. v. 17.

The true confession of people who are born again by the Spirit of God is herein given.

a. Honor all men.

The verb here is aorist. It is a prin-

ciple of conduct never to be relaxed. Why?

- 1) Because man was made in the image of God. James 3:9.
- 2) Because of Christ's incarnation humanity has been dignified. Phil. 2:7, 8.
- 3) Because of the hope of man's redemption through Christ.

b. Love the brotherhood.

The verb is present tense and is the strong term connoting settled choice above all others. Gal. 6:10.

How can we show love for this corporate group of the Lord's own?

- 1) By joining it--through faith.
- 2) By attending its gatherings.
- 3) By preserving its purity.
- 4) By seeking its increase.
- 5) By praying for it.

c. Fear God.

Again the present tense of the verb. Thought is of holy contemplation of His divine character issuing in awe, respect, and worship.

Practically we can fear Him by not departing from His ways but delighting in His Word.

d. Honor the King.

This final injunction is also present tense, hence something to practice. The office of the king is to be given its right due.

Let Caesar's dues be ever paid  
To Caesar and his throne;

But conscience and souls were made  
To be the Lord's alone.

Conclusion:

The heart that has utterly submitted itself to the Lord will discover these thoughts precious. How goes it with your social submission?