

1 Peter 2:13-20

Peter ends our verses with a string of commands. He urges us to live honest lives with respect to our government. When might we be tempted to be dishonest towards the government? Why might we be tempted to be dishonest towards our government? How does an honest heart which serves God contrast with dishonest people and their dealings with the government?

Peter says our governmental officials deserve respect and honor. Does society give them much respect or honor? Are we immune from showing them dishonor? What does our irreverent talk towards our elected officials show about our hearts? How do we show our government respect and honor? Why do we want to show our government respect and honor?

Peter addresses slaves in verse 18. Does his address indicate he is endorsing slavery? Why or why not? What do you picture when you think of slavery? How was slavery practiced in ancient Rome?

Slavery spread rapidly through the slave population in the Roman Empire. How did Peter want slaves to serve their masters? Why would he want them to serve their masters in such a way? What was Peter's hope that might happen through such service to their masters?

Our concept of slavery is radically different than the world which Peter was writing in. Does this mean we should disregard this section? What relationship should it remind us of in our lives? Why would Jesus want us to be faithful and honest employees? What do these words teach someone who is authority?