

**2nd Week of June**  
The Social Life of a Good Christian

- **Text:** 1 Peter 2:13~17 (June 4)
- **Point:** It is God's will that we respect the law and order of the country and pray for our leaders.

≡ **1. Praise**

(Hymn 315) My Jesus I Love Thee

≡ **2. Prayer**

God, we praise You for leading us in love. Whenever we gather for worship, let us know You more and grow in a way that pleases You .

≡ **3. The Word**

Read 1 Peter 2:13~17 together (read the verse 3 times).

\* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

**<ESV>**

13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

**<NASB>**

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 15 For such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Act as free people, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond-servants of God. 17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

## Understanding Text

Christians should follow all the institutions of the nation and respect the rulers and leaders. They were ordained by God to restore the social order. When social order is in place, everyone can stay safe and the way to share the gospel can be opened. The Greek Taoist is to do good deeds and live as "servants of God."

### Understanding the text for leaders

Peter wrote this letter about A.D. 64, during the reign of Emperor Nero. It's amazing that he exhorts us to respect the kings and governors in power and to obey their institutions. I encourage Emperor Nero and the Roman Empire to adopt this attitude, not because I fear them, but because I recognize that the authority they have has been given by God. Peter believed that the state system that was established to correct the basic order of society came from God. Like Peter, Paul told us to submit to the superior authorities, saying that all authority comes from God (Romans 13:1). and It is said that the authorities become God's ministers and punish evil (Romans 13:4). This attitude was also a preparation for the evil deeds of the Gentiles, who slandered and accused Christians at the time. It was wise not to give them an excuse to be sued. That's why Peter uses a rather harsh expression: "To prevent the ignorant speech of fools by good works" (v. 15). We who have been saved are given freedom, but it teaches us that it is wise to think about God's will and live according to it, rather than using it according to our own desires and desires. Peter sums it all up and says: "Honor all men, love your brethren, fear God, honor kings" (verse 17). In other words, for the sake of God's will, for the sake of maintaining order and the safety of the saints, we must respect the institutions of the state and the authorities including the king.

## 4. Sharing

1) What did Peter exhort us to do with the institution of the state, the king and the governor sent by the king? Why? (verses 13~15)

### Upper Grades

Why did Peter teach us to keep the institutions of the nation and to respect the king and governor? (verses 13~15)

### Lower Grades

Why did Peter say that we should obey the rules of the country and obey the king and the governor sent by the king? (verses 13~15)

### Question Guide

Let them know that adherence to the state system and obedience to the king and the governor sent by the king is not only about being a model citizen who adapts to society and keeps law and order, but also that it is ultimately an act of God's will.

### Comments for Leaders

The wisest thing a Christian can do in the socio-political situation that Peter found himself in is not to mislead his adversary. Thus, Peter reminds us that keeping laws and institutions and having respect for kings and governors is the attitude that a "servant of God" (v. 16) should have for God's will.

2) Share one prayer request for our country, our president, and our leaders.

■ **Upper Grades**

What prayers can we pray for our country, our president, and our leaders?

■ **Lower Grades**

Let's pray together for our country and for the presidents and leaders who lead it.

□ **Question Guide**

Let's talk about why peace is important in a situation where our country is divided into North and South. Pray for wisdom among leaders in politics, economy, society, and culture to lead our country according to God's will.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

As the only divided country in the world, Korea is always in a state of tension due to North Korea's provocations. We must pray for peace so that there will never be another war in this land. We should also pray that not only the political leaders of our country but also the leaders of the economy, society, and culture in general will abandon their personal desires and act correctly for the public good and the development of the country. This is a Christian's public responsibility.

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Give thanks to God for protecting our country and making great progress in the past history.

≡ **6. Prayer**

Thank you, God, for protecting and guiding our country so far. Give wisdom to the leaders God has raised up to establish justice and peace. Let us be committed to loving our country, respecting our leaders, and praying for them.

- End the family worship service with the "Lord's Prayer"

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