

Surrender or Else

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 1 Peter 2:11-25.

B. The result of submission ought to be a godly life.

C. Peter addresses the question why we should seek to live a godly life.

II. For our own sake.

A. When we live a godly life, we are responding to God's love.

1. If we are loved, our response ought to be obedience. (2 Peter 3:1)

2. We enjoy God's love when we are godly. (John 14)

B. We do not belong to this world.

1. We are just passing through.

2. We are called to live as if nothing in this world really counted.

C. We live a godly life to sustain victory.

III. For the sake of the unsaved.

A. Christians have neighbors who slander them, but they should respond in love so that their neighbors might be saved.

B. God uses our witness before others.

C. The winning of a lost soul for Christ is more valuable than personal pleasure.

D. The will of God is that we submit to every government ordinance. The will of God is that through well doing we can muzzle accusers.

E. We are to be diligent about seeking the approval of God.

F. Being subject is thankworthy. It is grace.

IV. For the Lord's sake.

A. Christ is the ultimate example. All who are godly will suffer persecution.

B. Jesus kept committing himself to God.

C. The question we need to ask is why we are doing what we are doing? We are called to surrender.

Application questions:

1. How does God's love relate to our holiness? Explain.

2. How have you seen people turned off from Christianity by a bad witness? What did you learn?

3. How would you respond to a Christian who says he breaks the law for nonspiritual reasons? Explain.
