



# Social Relationships

**Main Text for The Week:** *“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8, KJV).*

**Read and Meditate on these Texts:**

*1 Peter 2:13-23; 1 Pet. 3:1-7; 1 Corinthians 7:12-16; Galatians 3:27, 28; Acts 5:27-32; Leviticus 19:18.*

**Main Thought for the Week:** In last week's study of 1 Peter 2:5,9 the apostle pointed out to the believers their special purpose as Christians in being a spiritual house, a chosen generation and a royal priesthood to proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. They were tasked with the responsibility of living the kind of life that they should live as Christians, both individually and as a community. This week, Peter gives us broad Christian principles as he dealt with difficult social issues and relationships.



## **Church and State**

### **Sunday's Summary – April 16:**

1. What is the general principle that Peter outlines as it relates to dealing with our government? (1 Peter 2:13-17) \_\_\_\_\_

2. If Peter were alive today and writes to the church in the USA (for example); do you think he would still urge believers to accept the authority of the government?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_

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**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** A prophecy in Revelation 13 talks about a time when obeying the political powers would mean disobeying God; how should Christians relate in/to such situations? (Acts 5:27-29) \_\_\_\_\_

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**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Masters and Slaves**

### **Monday's Summary – April 17:**

**SUMMARY THOUGHTS:** After careful reading of **1 Peter 2:18-23** it reveals that, rather than giving an endorsement of slavery, Peter, in the text gives spiritual counsel on how to think about difficult circumstances that, at the time, could not be changed.

1. How does the counsel in **1 Peter 2:18** relate to similar counsel in **Ephesians 6:5**?

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2. How does the freedom of slaves in Peter's day relate to the concept of redemption that Jesus accomplished for us? (**Ephesians 1:7; Romans 3:24; Colossians 1:14**)

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**Appeal:** Considering that man could not free himself from the domination of sin, (**Jeremiah 12:23**), how grateful should we be of the fact that God so loved us as to give Christ to die for us (**Romans 8:32**)? \_\_\_\_\_

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**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Wives and Husbands**

### **Tuesday’s Summary – April 18:**

**Discussion Thought:** One significant issue that Peter deals with in **1 Peter 3:1-7** is about wives who have husbands who “obey not the word”. In other words, Peter is talking about what should happen when a wife who is a Christian is married to a husband who is not. A Christian wife would find many difficulties being married to a husband who does not share her faith. Should she separate from her husband? Peter, like Paul in **1 Corinthians 7:12-16** does not suggest that Christian wives leave their non-believing husbands. Instead, says Peter, wives with a husband who is not a believer must live exemplary lives.

1. When Peter counsels that wives should be in subjection to their own husbands did he intend that husbands should mistreat their wives? (**1 Peter 3:5**) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Is Peter suggesting that if husbands mistreat their wives, their prayers will not be heard and answered by God? (**1 Peter 3:7**) \_\_\_\_\_  
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**ILLUMINATION:** The husband-wife relationship has been likened by inspiration to the relationship of Christ to His church (**Ephesians 5:22-29**). This intimate social bond when ordered according to the divine plan, becomes a powerful witness for the kingdom of God (**Matthew 25:1-13**).

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Christianity and the Social Order**

### **Thursday's Summary – April 20:**

**Discussion Thought:** Despite knowing that human organizations and governments are flawed and sometimes sinful, and despite their bad experiences with governments and religious leaders, both Paul and Peter urged early Christians to submit to human authorities (1 Pet. 2:13-17, Rom. 13:1-10). Christians, they say, should pay taxes and contribute to governmental labor obligations. As far as possible, Christians were to be model citizens.

1. What important truths should we take from Peter's word in Acts 5:29? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. If your boss should require that you show up for work Friday night, how would you personally respond to that? Use at least one text to support your response...  
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**Appeal:** Are you prepared right now, if you are brought to stand before a high court judge for standing up for your faith, to say to him: 'I'd rather obey God than man'? What if the judge should threaten to send you to prison for the rest of your life for disobeying the particular public social order that conflicts with the word of God? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Social Relationships**

### **Friday’s Summary – April 21:**

**ILLUMINATION:** “When the laws of men conflict with the word and law of God, we are to obey the latter, whatever the consequences may be. The law of our land requiring us to deliver a slave to his master, we are not to obey, and we must abide the consequences of violating this law. The slave is not the property of any man. God is his rightful master, and man has no right to take God’s workmanship into his hands, and claim him as his own.” - *Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pp. 201, 202.*

**Appeal:** The subject of Social Relationships among Christians is a very important one; and it is very broad in scope. Do you pledge today by God’s grace that you will order your life in harmony with these biblical principles that we have discovered this week? \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Thoughts:** Metro New York World Ministry is committed to help in preparing and making our family of believers good citizens fitted to live in this life; and to win many others in preparation for the more abundant eternal life to come in the kingdom of heaven. Pledge with us today, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live good social lives as citizens of God’s kingdom.

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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