



# HOPE

## LOWERTOWN

ST. PAUL



North  
Sea

Baltic  
Sea

Hamburg

THE  
NETHERLANDS

WEST  
GERMANY

West  
Berlin

East  
Berlin

East Berlin

BELGIUM

Bonn

EAST  
GERMANY

Dresden

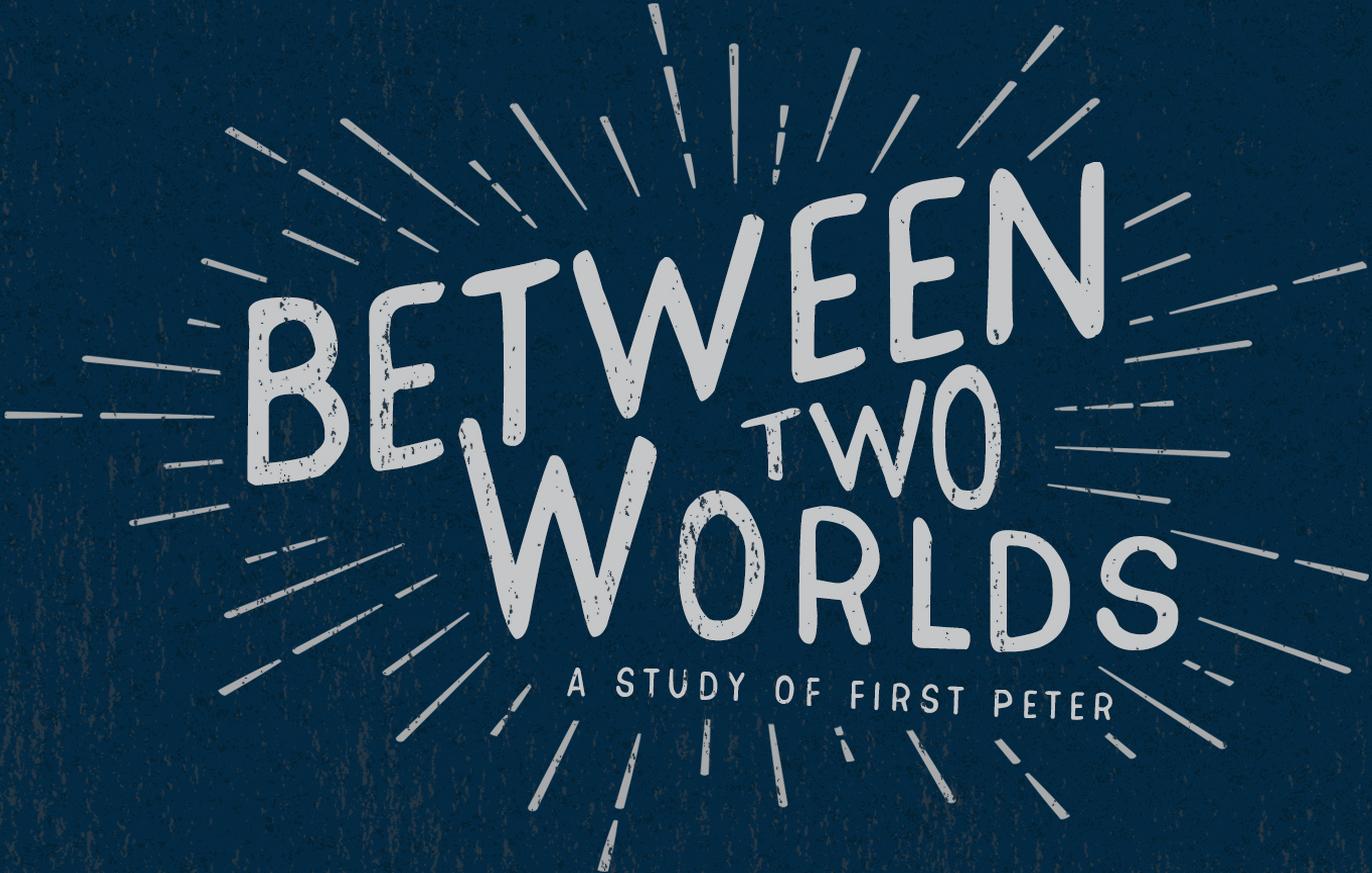
POLAND

LUXEMBOURG

Frankfurt

CZECHOSLOVAKIA



The title 'BETWEEN TWO WORLDS' is rendered in a white, hand-drawn, distressed font. The word 'BETWEEN' is on the top line, 'TWO' is smaller and positioned between 'BETWEEN' and 'WORLDS', and 'WORLDS' is on the bottom line. The text is surrounded by numerous white lines of varying lengths radiating outwards, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. The background is a dark blue with a subtle, grainy texture.

BETWEEN  
TWO  
WORLDS

A STUDY OF FIRST PETER

# Previous Sermons

*Living Stones*

*1 Peter 2:4-10*

**Elder Led**

**Governance Team Supported**

**Staff Run**

**Member Mobilized**

**“It’s not we have a mission and you can help, it’s you have a mission and we can help.”**

Leonce Crump



# Previous Sermons

*Living Stones*

*1 Peter 2:4-10*

*Good God – Good Lives – Good God*

*1 Peter 2:11-12*

## 1 Peter 2:11-12

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

# **This Week's Sermon**

*The Good Civil Life*

*1 Peter 2:13-17*

## 1 Peter 2:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

A “word” on politics

“  
We worship the Lamb of God, not  
some donkey or elephant.

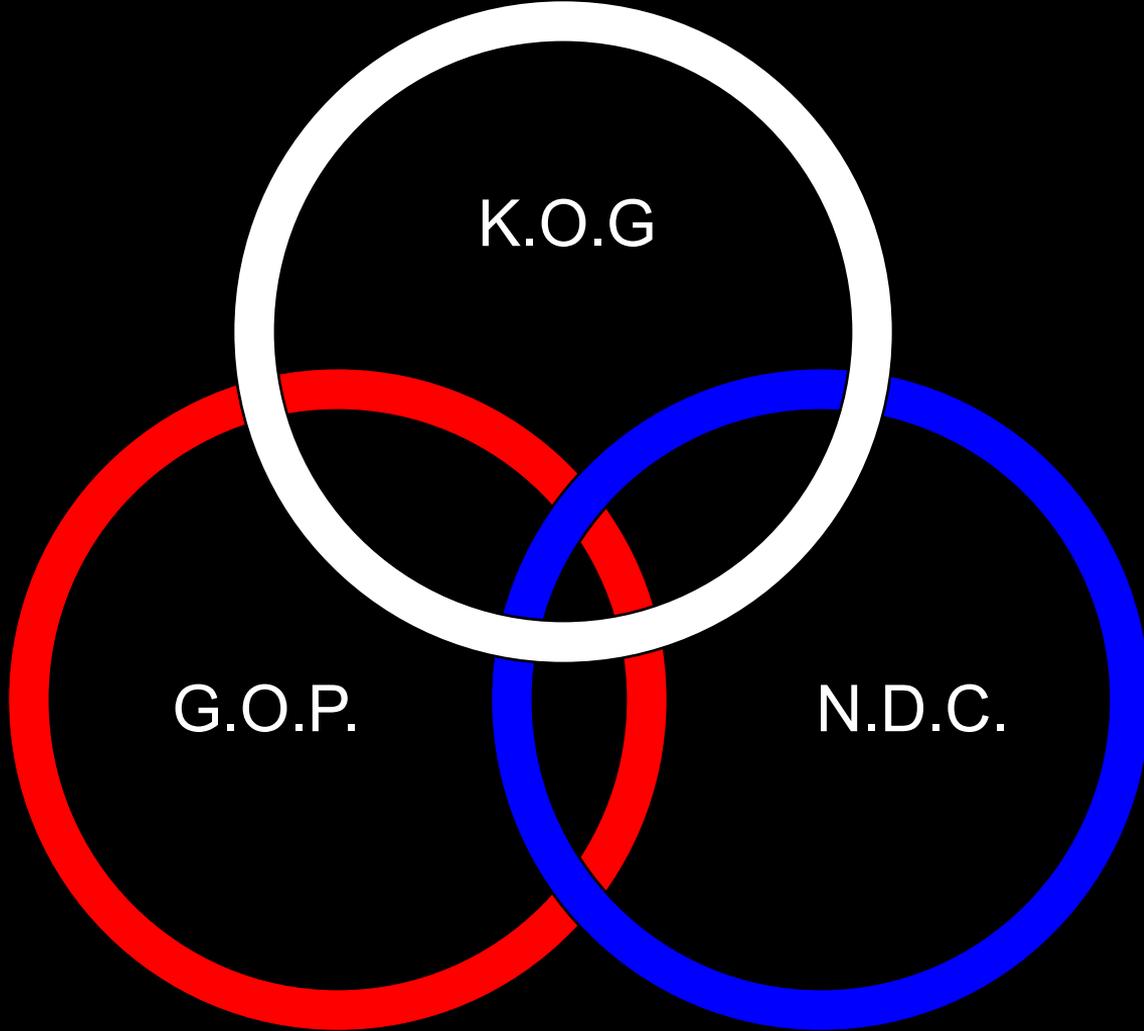


*Tyler St. Clair – Detroit, MI*

“  
We (should) worship the Lamb of God,  
not some donkey or elephant.



*Tyler St. Clair – Detroit, MI*



K.O.G

G.O.P.

N.D.C.

“  
Forced religion stinks in the nostrils of  
God.



*Roger Williams – Providence, RI*

**Submit to who?**

## 1 Peter 2:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.



The relatively optimistic outlook reflected here comports better with the earlier decades of the church, toward the end of the reign of Claudius or the very beginning of Nero's. At that time Christians were socially and perhaps professionally ostracized in various ways, but they had not yet suffered state-sponsored persecution as a matter of policy. As long as the church enjoyed some protection from the state's suspicion of new religions by virtue of its association with Judaism, Peter appears to be hopeful that it could maintain a measure of good relations with the state, at least to the extent Judaism did.

You keep using that word...

## 1 Peter 2:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

What does it mean to 'submit' to these authorities?...This word usually commands Christians to recognize that they stand in a certain hierarchy to others... When applied to rulers, then, 'submit' means to recognize that a hierarchy exists and that we stand under the rulers in that hierarchy. Normally, therefore, submission meant that we obey what they say.

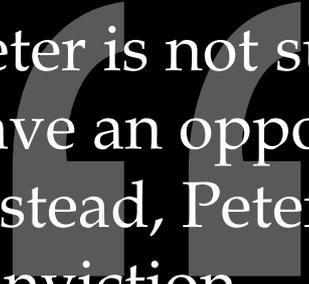
In all of Paul's hierarchical structures, however, the uppermost authority, though not always mentioned, is God. He stands at the top of all our hierarchies. What this means is that we must always submit to those over us in light of our ultimate submission to God. In certain cases, this might mean that we will disobey the authority immediately over us in order to obey our ultimate authority.



Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon,  
which cuts without wounding and ennobles the  
man who wields it. It is a sword that heals.  
Violence as a way of achieving racial justice is  
both impractical and immoral.

~Martin Luther King Jr.





Peter is not suggesting that evil governments be ignored; if we have an opportunity to change the institution, we should. Instead, Peter is suggesting a peaceful approach that is full of conviction.

**That sounds hard**

## 1 Peter 2:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Do good

## 1 Peter 2:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Peter does not advocate submission because the systems are just but to enable believers to witness in society...The aim is to bear witness and to avoid giving grounds for accusations that Christianity is subversive. God's name must not be brought into disrepute...

~ Adeyemo, Tokunboh. (2006). Africa Bible Commentary (p. 1547). Nairobi, Kenya; Grand Rapids, MI: WordAlive Publishers; Zondervan.



## Matthew 5:38-46

<sup>38</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ <sup>39</sup> But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. <sup>40</sup> And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. <sup>41</sup> If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

## Matthew 5:38-46

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor <sup>z</sup> and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

## Jeremiah 29:4-7

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.

<sup>6</sup> Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup> But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Peter's exhortation here is prefaced by a claim to divine authority. It is God's will (not simply Peter's) that Christians do good even in pagan societies, for by such behavior they will silence the slander about Christianity, and all the more so if they are publicly recognized by the authorities for good works that benefit their city. It is difficult to square this teaching with any worldview that recommends strict separatism from society and withdrawal from civic responsibility as a legitimate Christian lifestyle.

**Serve a new Master**

## 1 Peter 2:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

More likely, the statement is a comprehensive reference to all contexts in which a Christian lives: social, ecclesial, spiritual, and political. While the syntax and precise structure of 2:17 are difficult to decide, the thrust of the exhortation is clear: Christians must live well by giving each type of relationship its due.

Jobes, K. H. (2005). [1 Peter](#) (p. 177). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

# Gospel Application:

*Do you serve a new Master?*

# Gospel Application:

*Do you serve a new Master?*

*Do you realize you have been set free from your old master?*