Pastor Andrew Irvin May 12, 2019

**HOLY RELATIONSHIPS**

1 Peter 2:13-3:9

**A TRIO OF RELATIONSHIPS**

**Citizen/Subject** vs. **Empire/Emperor**

**Slave/Servant** vs. **Master/Supervisor**

**Wife** vs. **Husband**

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**Does Jesus care?**

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| **WEAKER** | **POWER** | **ALL** |
| Submit for God’s sake (2:13, 2:18, 3:1) | Recognize that you’re accountable to God for how you use your power. (2:13, 25; 3:7) | God is the source of all ***legitimate*** power (2:13-14, compare to Romans 13:1-2)  Remember God is almighty (2:18) |
| Do what is right (2:14) | Be fair; practice justice (2:13-14) | Good Priorities: Respect everyone, love your spiritual family, fear God, honor the emperor (2:17) |
| Live as free people, yet righteously (2:16).  Choose to serve God (2:17) | Commend those who do right (2:14) | Follow in His steps (2:21) |
| Do what is right, even in the face of injustice (2:19).  Do not do wrong (2:20) | Be good and considerate (2:18; 3:7) | Be like Christ in the face of injustice (2:22-23). |
| Focus on the inner person more than the outer person (3:3-4). Pure and reverent behavior (3:2) | Appreciate the soul – what’s on the “inside” of others – more than the externals of what they look like or what they can “do” for you | FIND YOURSELF IN CHRIST, the Shepherd and Overseer of your soul (2:25) |

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**LAW OF RELATIONSHIPS (AND LIFE IN GENERAL):**

1. **YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.** (Galatians 6:7)
2. Reaping will not be equal to sowing.  The reaping **COMES LATER AND IS GREATER.**
3. One more time: does Jesus care how I treat others?

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"And now this word to all of you: You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds. Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t snap back at those who say unkind things about you. Instead, pray for God’s help for them, for we are to be kind to others, and God will bless us for it."

1 Peter 3:8-9, The Living Bible