

1. Why does the role of government remain such a difficult subject for so many in our society? How does the influence of government in America today differ from what it was for the exiles of the 1st Century?

2. Read 1 Peter 2:13–14. What role does Peter attribute to those in governmental authority? From where do the origins of those God-ordained roles come (Genesis 6:5–6; 9:5–6)?

3. What qualifier does Peter give in v13 for remaining “subject” to human institutions? At what historical points have Christians chosen to obey God over men (Acts 5:29)? How should Christians decide at which point obedience to God over government is required? What resources do Christians have available?

4. Read 1 Peter 2:15. How does doing good silence the ignorance of foolish people? Can you share an example of how this has occurred in your own life?

5. Read 1 Peter 2:16–17. How does the exercise of freedom complement Peter’s call to be subject to human institutions?

6. How can one remain subject to government, honor everyone, and honor the emperor, and at the same time fear God and love the brotherhood? How does our U.S. constitution support this and how should we, as Christians, function in and towards government given our current constructs? How will honoring our government and those in authority over us lead to God’s glory on the day of visitation?