

## Week Five “Heartwork”: Authority Issues

*It's not hard to follow leaders who are going in the right direction. It's easy to submit to the authority of someone who is considerate and reasonable. It's no problem cooperating with a boss who values our input. The reason we have issues with authority is that sometimes those in authority are unwise, unjust, and unreasonable. We may be mistreated, misused, and misunderstood. This week's passage challenges us to take a look at the example of Jesus and His response to human authority and to make a shift in how we those who have authority over us.*

Observation: Pray and read the following passage. List your observations (aim for 20). You may find it helpful to read in one or two different translations.

### **1 Peter 2:13-23 (NIV)**

**13** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, **14** or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. **15** For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. **16** Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. **17** Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. **18** Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. **19** For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. **20** But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. **21** To this

you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. **22** "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." **23** When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

*Interpretation: Sum Up what you saw in a sentence or two.*

*Personal Application: Use the SPECK method to find at least one way to apply this passage in your life, considering especially your response to those in authority in your life.*