

1 Peter 2:15

by John Gill

The will of God is to be subject to magistrates and live soberly, righteously, and godly in order to silence the ignorance of foolish men and confound and silence enemies.

Scripture: Matthew 5:16, Romans 13:1, 1 Peter 2:15

Topics: "Righteous Living", "Good Works"

Description

John Gill emphasizes that God's will is for believers to engage in good works and live righteously, thereby demonstrating their faith through their actions in society. He explains that by adhering to civil laws and behaving honorably, Christians can silence the ignorance and criticisms of those who do not know God. This conduct not only reflects the Gospel but also serves as a testimony to the truth of God's righteousness. Gill highlights the importance of living in a way that brings glory to God and confounds those who misunderstand or misrepresent the faith.

Transcript

Ver. 15. For so is the will of God,.... Which refers not so much to what goes before; though it is a truth, that it is the will of God that men should be subject to magistrates, and that magistrates should encourage virtue, and discourage vice, reward the obedient, and punish delinquents; but to what follows:

that with well doing; by doing good works, and those well; by living soberly, righteously, and godly; by having the conversation honest among the Gentiles, agreeably to the law of God, and as becomes the Gospel of Christ; particularly, by living according to the laws of civil society, so far as is consistent with, and not contrary to the commands of God; and by being subject to every civil magistrate, and ordinance of man:

ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: or, as the Syriac version renders it, "that ye may stop the mouths of those foolish men who know not God"; or, as the Ethiopic version has it, "who know not these things"; who are ignorant of God, of his righteousness, of his law, his Gospel, and ordinances. The Gentiles were very ignorant of these things, and very foolish in their imaginations about religious affairs; and from this their ignorance and folly arose calumnies, reflections, and censures upon the people of God; they neither knew God, nor them, nor true religion, and reproached what they understood not, and for want of knowing it: now the apostle signified, that it was the declared will of God that his people should so behave in civil life, that their enemies should be entirely confounded, and silenced, and have nothing to say against them; the word signifies to be muzzled, to have the mouth shut up, as with a bit or bridle; it is

used in Mt 22:12.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-gill/1-peter-215/>

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