

BEING SUBJECT TO RULERS AND AUTHORITIES

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Titus 3:1-2

“Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.”

The call to “speak evil of no one” is quite a challenge, but perhaps we can take comfort in the following exceptions that allow us to say whatever we want to say no matter how mean-spirited or belittling it is.

- ◆ Service at the restaurant or store was unacceptably slow.
- ◆ Someone disagrees with us on our politics.
- ◆ A person had the audacity to question us about our opinion on a subject in which we are confident of our “knowledge.”
- ◆ The other person reviled first.

I could keep going and list a few more “exceptions,” but you have probably already figured out the problem with these loopholes—none of them are found in Scripture. The Bible does not forbid expressing disagreements or dissatisfaction with people, but even in disagreements we are to speak evil of no one, love our neighbor, and be sure our lights are not dimmed.

GALATIANS 5:14

*“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this:
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

MATTHEW 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
