LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

God's Public Servant

Passage: Romans 13:5-7

Introduction: This week, John finished the section on governing authorities in Romans 13:1-7. He reminded us that *God set up authority structures* in the world for our good and His glory (for example: government, husbands, and parents). *Therefore, we should yield to those in authority and honor them*. Regarding government authority, this includes paying taxes, engaging in honest business practices, and speaking well of them even when we differ with them on certain issues.

Additional Passages: Exodus 16:2-3, 8; 2 Samuel 23:1-4; Psalm 78:17-22.

For accountability time: Ephesians 5:22-33, 6:5-7; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

Questions:

1. John's first point explained the meaning of Romans 13:5, that we should yield to authority because God put them in place and so we submit as an act of worship to Him. Is your standard operating procedure respect for authority? Is that the influence you are having on others' view of authority?

2. John made the point multiple times during the past few weeks that resistance to authority in our life reveals difficulty we have with submitting to God. How have you seen this in your own life? (See also Exodus 16:2-3, 8 and Psalm 78:17-22).

3. What do we learn from 2 Samuel 23:1-4 about the effect good authority has? How have you seen that play out in your life?

4. John said God's expectation regarding taxes is for His people to pay them. Have you not reported income on your taxes in the past? If so, have you paid back taxes to rectify that?

5. John pointed out that showing honor to those in authority does not equal always agreeing with them. What does it look like practically to honor someone in authority in conversation with others when you disagree with the authority figure's policies, priorities, or behavior?

6. How is it going with willing submission from the heart to those in authority over you in your workplace (Eph 6:5-7)? If you are in authority in your workplace, are your expectations reasonable, yet challenging? Is your follow through consistent, yet kind?

I recommend discussing these questions in gender-based accountability time:

7. Wives, how is it going with willing submission to your husband? Do you bristle when he tries to lead you?
8. Wives, when you express disagreement with your husband's plan, how do you do that?
9. Wives, how is it going with regularly encouraging your husband with your words?
10. Husbands, how is it going with proactively leading your family in Bible reading and prayer?
11. Husbands, how do you draw out your wife's opinion on important decisions?
12. Husbands, are you cultivating relationship with your wife?