

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

10/7/18

Text: Romans 13:1-10 (ESV)

Title: Government, Authority & the Gospel

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In Tim's sermon we looked at Roman's 13, and Paul's call for the Roman Christians to submit to their authorities (government or otherwise) because they were instituted by and under the authority of the Lord. What made this call even more radical than it may seem to us today, is that their Roman Emperor Nero was one of the worst persecutors of Christians that Rome had ever seen. And Paul doesn't stop at submission, he calls the Christian to give respect, honor, and above all, love. Contrary to our sinful nature to resist submission, especially to an undesirable ruler, the call of the gospel is to see ourselves not as we relate to our earthly authority, but how we have related to our heavenly authority. We are guilty of nothing short of treason and heresy, denying God's rule and wanting to take his place, and we are in desperate need of a savior. The beauty of the gospel is that Christ's spirit both frees us from our guilt and shame, and also gives to us the very life of Christ, able to live in submission and love. Jesus, the creator and king, submitted himself to every human authority, and he frees us to do the same.

Reflection Questions:

1. *Tim said one of the main reasons we give for not submitting to an authority is because we think they're a bad leader. Why should I have to submit to a sinful or wicked ruler?*
 - **Who comes to mind when you think about submitting to a broken or sinful leader?**
 - **What does it mean that their rule has been instituted by God?**
2. *We live in a culture that says "just be you", "you get to be who you want to be, and no one, even authorities, should tell you any different."*
 - **What happens when the world is filled with people only living for themselves?**
 - **How have you experienced the reality that "real love causes you to die to yourself"?**
3. *As Tim said, the love we have been given does not belong to us. It was given to us by God so that we could give it to others. Until we actively give it away, we are stealing from other people, and stealing from our maker.*
 - **How have you taken what God has given you and used it only for yourself?**
 - **Where do you need God to change your heart so that you can submit, respect, honor and even love an authority in your life?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

1. Worship and praise the Lord as the Ruler of all existence, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that in His rule He conquers us not to destroy us, but to save us!
2. How are you rebellious? Where do you chafe and struggle against being ruled? Agree with Jesus that your fight with Him is wrong and fruitless, asking Him to forgive you and give you an obedient spirit (see Psalm 51:11-12).
3. Give thanks to Jesus for all that He guarantees in His good rule over your life. Thank Him for satisfying the just charges against you for your rebellion and that He guarantees you a new heart by His Spirit indwelling.
4. Who do you know that struggles with obeying from the heart, earthly authorities (even Christians, with whom they differ)? Ask the Father to help them, giving them understanding of His rule, and a soft heart.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of love. Pray that He would work into your heart Jesus' own character and true loyalty to the Father, so that you can genuinely honor those in authority over you