



This Week's Icebreaker Question:

What part of elementary school do you wish you could incorporate into your adult life? (i.e. naptime)

Series Questions:

1. What has God revealed to you?
2. What are you doing about it?
3. How is it changing your life?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. Read Romans 13:1-7. One commentator states, "The heart of the argument is clear enough. God who created the world also orders the world. Part of that order is government, and government exists to keep us from hurting one another. Therefore the obligation of the Christian is to be a good citizen." How can you and I be the best citizens we can be to those around us, both believer and non-believer?

2. In verse 2, Paul argues that to resist the authorities is to resist God (and incur judgment), because He put the powers in place. Read Daniel 3:12-18 and Hebrews 11:23, then Acts 5:27-33. These are examples of believers in the Bible resisting authorities (the King of Babylon, Pharaoh of Egypt, and the High Priest of Israel) in faith that they are following the will of God. Why do you think God would say through Paul not to resist authorities, but in other places tell certain Biblical characters to resist the authorities? Are there good reasons for Christians to ever disobey the authorities?

3. In verse 7, Paul tells us that we must not only pay taxes to authorities but also give them both honor and respect. Often, we are tempted to say disrespectful things about leaders that we don't like, but Paul's words include leaders we disagree with. Why do you think it's crucial as Christians to respect and honor even leaders that we don't like or disagree with? How can we vocalize our disagreements without disrespecting or dishonoring a leader?

4. Read Romans 13:1-7, Exodus 19:6 and 1 Peter 2:9. Just like the Israelites in the Old Testament, God has called us a "kingdom of priests," not a kingdom of political activists or social justice warriors. Not that being involved in social justice is bad, but what is our priority as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ? How will this priority as believers shape how we honor those who are over us from a civil standpoint even if they are unbelievers?