

Sermon Questions for your Small Group/LifeGroup to think on...

Sermon: For the Lord's Sake, Submit. 1 Peter 2:13-17

Sermon Point:

- We are called by God to submit ourselves to authorities and institutions.
- We understand from a biblical perspective that God has ordained their existence and function.
- Though we are free in Christ, we are not exempt from submission.
- Through our submission we are worshiping God.
- We do not break laws because we don't like them; we are only to do so when they are in direct violation of our heavenly laws given us.
- We are called to heavenly submission first, then to earthly submission.
- We answer to a higher standard than the world's.
- We must never bow to a king in worship, nor denounce our faith in apostasy, but short of that, we must be careful that our prerogative is not more our god than we think.

Questions:

1. When you think of the word "submit," what kind of images come to mind? Do you have a positive or negative view of submission? What are some of the current cultural understandings of submission?
2. What roles biblically do we expect our governments to have in our society? Obviously governments around the world are very different and allow for different expressions of faith. How do we capitalize on the advantages afforded here?
3. Pastor BJ linked our submission to the government to our worship of God. Biblically, how is that connection affirmed? Do you see your proper functioning in our society as part of your worship?
4. How free are we to do whatever we want? How do you decide which rules to follow and which ones you can ignore?
5. Can you think of any law that required you to go against your beliefs? If so, how did you respond?
6. Just because we are called to submit, does that mean that we have to accept every law passed? Give examples of laws that we as believers should not be supporting? What biblically afforded and governmentally acceptable ways can we use to challenge these laws?
7. Pastor BJ mentioned several actions that are currently not illegal (Indulging in pornography, sex outside marriage, affairs, same-sex marriage, cussing, greed, gluttony, laziness, excessive drinking, etc;), but are still biblically sinful nonetheless. Can you think of others which don't pass the "higher standard" bar?
8. In the midst of COVID-19 we have been given some pretty strict guidelines and suggestions to follow... 6ft social distancing, limited store hours, closures, masks, quarantine after travel, etc. How are you deciding which of these to follow and which not to follow? Is your litmus test biblical?
9. How does the Church submitting to the governing authorities bear witness to God?
10. What was one of the biggest thing that stuck with you from the service this weekend?