

dedicated to:

Community Group Discussion Guide

June 29, 2014

Week 4 | Under Authority
Romans 13:1-7

Read Romans 13:1-7 before answering the following questions.

Questions for Study

Introduction

The book of Romans can be divided into two major sections. The first eleven chapters are devoted to explaining the truth about God and the truth about us. Included in these chapters is how it's possible for each one of us to have a relationship with God. They show us that God's holy, just and loving. They also show us our own spiritual need because of our sinfulness, pointing us to God's grace through Jesus Christ.

In the 12th chapter Paul begins applying this truth to our lives. He shows the difference it can and should make in how we think and in what we say and do. The first of those differences is for us to have an eagerness to serve and to do this with passion. The second of those differences is the dedication we're to have to love people in real and tangible ways.

1. This week's text leads us into the topic of submitting to government authority. What is your "gut reaction" / "first thought" at the mention of this topic?
2. Read Romans 13:1-7. If you were to summarize this passage in one sentence what would it be?
3. What do you know about the government that Paul and his readers were experiencing with the Emperor Nero at the helm in the first Century? What was life like for the Jews Paul is writing to? Based on that, what do you think would have been the reaction of Paul's readers to this text?
4. What does it mean to "submit"? "Why" according to the text should we submit to the government's authority?
5. Do you agree with the following statement based on this passage: "The relationship described in this passage isn't so much a horizontal relationship with government but more of a vertical relationship with God, because our government authority has been instituted by God"?
6. "How" should we submit to the government's authority? What teachable moments may come up as we submit?
7. How does having a "high view" of God impact our understanding of this text? Why is this so important?
8. There may be a list of things that you like/don't like about our government. In what ways can you thank God for the government that is in place in our country? What benefits do you enjoy that our government system affords us?
9. This week, commit to praying for two things: 1. Your government officials and their crucial decision making roles. 2. Yourself, that your submission to government would be a reflection of your greater allegiance to God.