

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Election 2020

These questions are for the **November 1, 2020** sermon, "God and Government." Please read the sermon passage (Romans 13:1-7) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND GOVERNMENT, NOTE . . .

1. The delegated authority of government (1-2)
 - a. God gives some authority to human government and governors.
 - i. God retains his sovereign authority. Psalm 3:19; 66:7.
 - ii. God gives limited authority temporarily to people in governance.
 - b. God uses good and wicked governors for his own good purposes.
 - c. Christians are called to submit to good and wicked kings for God's glory.
 - i. Laws which contradict God's Word may be disobeyed (Exodus 2; Acts 4).
 - ii. Needlessly disobeying a bad (or good) king brings God's judgment.
2. The defined ministry of government (3-5)
 - a. Government exists to discourage and punish bad/criminal behavior.
 - i. The lawmaker is God's "servant," or "deacon."
 - ii. Every human government falls short of consistent justice.
 - b. Government exists to reward and incentivize good/positive behavior.
3. The described responsibility to government (6-7)
 - a. Believers are called to pay all our taxes.
 - b. Believers are called to repay our debts and to pay those who work for us.
 - c. Believers are called to pay respect to whom it is owed.
 - d. Believers are called to pay honor to whom it is owed.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Jesus and Paul both lived under wicked emperors who far exceeded the borders of their God-given authority. Both seemed to live *in* a country, but *for* God's kingdom and authority. How can we live "in" a country" but "for" or "under" only God's authority? What is the relationship between American citizenship and Philippians 3:20?
2. Based on #1, above: Though the Scriptures define the intent of human government, almost every human government from the beginning of time until now has been governed by "fleshly" governors who pay little attention to God or His Word. Should believers be surprised (anxious, frustrated or angry) when "high places" people overstep and warp their governmental role? Did Jesus? How shall we handle this?
3. How did God use Herod and Pilate to bless the world? How did God use the events leading up to WW2 to bless Israel? How has God used coronavirus to bless you and your family and extend his kingdom? Is he able to use good or bad leaders in the US to accomplish his purposes?
4. It has never been helpful for Christians to paint the future in "worst case scenarios," or believe every conspiracy theory or constantly complain about politics. What is God doing in your heart today about calmly and happily embracing the fact that his kingdom is here, now? He reigns! How can you be a better, calmer, and more confident citizen of heaven? (Philippians 3:20)