

Home Group Questions

the week of 1/14/2018

Romans 13:1-7

GOD AND COUNTRY!

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued our series on the book of Romans. We looked at Romans chapter 13 as it addressed the issue of God and country, how they overlap, and how the Christian should relate to both in this world.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Romans 13:1-7. This passage and others in God's Word teaches us that all authority on this earth has been instituted by God. That's an easier doctrine to swallow when we are under the authority of benevolent leaders. What are some greater biblical truths or doctrines that we need to remind ourselves of when we are under the authority of leaders/bosses that we don't like or agree with? Discuss some of the truths of this passage and difficulties that some of your homegroup members have had in living these truths out from this passage.

2. Paying taxes is addressed in this Romans 13 passage. What are biblical principles that you would give a young believer who is preparing their first tax return. This young person may not like the concept of taxes or even how the government is spending our tax money. What advice would you give as they fill out their taxes? What scriptural principles help you in your approach to the yearly grind of doing our tax returns?

3. Standing up for Christ in our culture is not appreciated by certain groups and individuals. What are practical strategies you use in your life to keep on keepin' on as a believer in Christ, in spite of the negative "vibes" you get from our culture today

regarding our faith and your involvement in the political process?

4. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Paul begins by exhorting believers to pray for everyone, but specifically adds kings and leaders to the list. Knowing that the Romans controlled Israel during the time of Paul's writing, why do you think it was important for him to mention leaders in this passage?

The Romans were obviously not popular in Israel, what do you think the effect would be on believers as they pray for the Romans? How does that connect with what Paul says in verse 2 about the way we are to live in our communities?

- What are some ways in which, in spite of the shortcomings of America, we can battle the tendency to focus on our problems and forget to give thanks for our many blessings?

- **In verse 4,** Paul reminds us that God desires that all should be saved. What connection do you think there is between praying for our leaders and living dignified lives and seeing people come to know Christ?

6. Protecting the unborn and standing up God's view on marriage/families is important to our church. What are some ways in which we can make a difference in our culture, but do so in a way that obeys Scriptural truth and conveys the love of Christ even in issues that are very emotionally charged for many people?

7. Read Matthew 5:13-16. Salt is a preservative and a flavor enhancer. How do those principles guide us in the way we are to influence our leaders and country for Christ?

MOVING FORWARD...

Spend some time praying for our nations leaders by name if you know them. Pray for our spiritual revival in our country/leaders.