

Series: Challenging Passages that Challenge Us

Title: Citizens on Earth

Text: Romans 13:1-7

Accountability: Share about any ways you applied lessons from the previous week/meeting.

Conversation Starter:

Growing up, how much did your family talk about governmental affairs or what it meant to be a 'good citizen'?

Synopsis: The Bible teaches us that being a good Christian, means being a good citizen. Although human government is flawed, its main purpose is to minimize evil on earth as part of God's common grace toward humanity. Our role as Christians when it comes to civic authority, is to obey the leaders that have been placed before us and to pray for them. The only time we are to disobey, is when human government orders us to disobey God's commands.

Dig: Read the various texts above

1. When you think of being a good citizen, what does that entail for you?
2. Praying for your earthly leaders can be difficult at times, especially if you have differing values and/or opinions. How can we genuinely pray for leaders that we have a hard time connecting with?
3. Just because something is lawful, does not mean that it is Scripturally moral. What does it look like to be a good witness as a Christian, without being swept up in the currents of culture?
4. A part of being a good citizen is to pay taxes. Do you ever find it difficult? Why or why not?
5. What are some personal Scriptural convictions that you will never compromise on even if human government made it law? (In other words, what would make you disobey human government in order to not disobey God's commands)

Application:

1. Set intentional time aside to pray for your governmental leaders this week.