



CROSSWINDS

THE GOVERNMENT, THE GOSPEL, & ME

OCTOBER 12

1 PETER 2:13-17

MAIN IDEA

The gospel makes us better citizens by leading us to pursue God, honor all, and pray for those in authority.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How do you think Christians generally feel about the government?

What are some errors Christians might make in their approach to politics?

> READ ROMANS 13:1-10.

Who in our society would be included in the phrase “governing authorities”? What is the command for how we are to respond to those authorities, and how have you seen that modeled well?

Why do you think God allows poor leaders to have positions of power? How might realizing this change the way you relate to people in such positions?

Do you think it was any easier for the Roman Christians to submit to their government than it is for us to submit to our government? Why?

In what specific ways does Paul tell us to submit in verse 7? Which of these is most difficult for you?

How can we pay respect and honor to government officials we don't think are very worthy of honor or respect?

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-3. Why is it important to pray for our governing authorities? How might doing so help you to be a more effective witness for Christ?

> READ 1 PETER 2:13-17.

In addition to Romans 13:3-5, what reasons does this text give for obeying and respecting authority?

Look at verse 17. How does Peter command believers to respond to authorities? How does He command believers to respond to God? What is the difference?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Read Acts 5:27-32. What is the difference between submitting to authorities and unconditionally obeying them? When might my obedience to Christ require me to disobey governing authorities?

Part of the mission of CrossWinds is to reach our community with the good news of Jesus. How might submitting to governing authorities be an important part of fulfilling that mission?

How might refusing to submit to the governing authorities in my life distract me from living out the mission of CrossWinds?

What can I do this week to cultivate a heart that honors those around me?