



Leader Conversation Guide – XXVII - Romans (Part IV): Religion and Politics

Main Idea

This week Pastor Curt continued our XXVII series with a message from Romans chapter 13 on the relationship between religion and politics. How do we respond to a government we disagree with? How do we show respect and honor to those in authority over us? Let's discuss these subjects a little deeper...

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

Make It Practical: 5 Elements that form our relationship to government

1. Our Role in Government
 - Romans 13:1 - "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities..."
 - Our responsibility: Be good citizens and pray for our leaders.
2. The Rule of Government
 - Romans 13:1 - "...for there is no authority except that which God has established."
 - Common Grace
3. The Reason for Government
 - Romans 13:3-5 - "For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience."
4. The Response to Government
 - Romans 13:6-7 - "This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor."
 - You can disagree without dishonoring.
 - 1 Timothy 2:1-3 "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior."
5. The Rival against Government
 - Romans 13:5 - "Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience."
 - A Christian is to be a good citizen until being a good citizen means being a bad Christian.

Talk About It

- What part of this message impacted you most?
- How can you grow in giving support and honor to those in authority over us?
- Have you given to God what belongs to Him?

As believers, we have Dual Citizenship.

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your covering and authority in my life. Please help me to honor and respect those You have placed over me. Help me to hold firm to Your Word and to live my life in a way that brings honor to You. Holy Spirit, protect me from dishonorable behaviors and temptations to disrespect the authority You've placed above me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Leader Tip

Remind Group Members about Group Leader Training! Your Groups Coordinator for your location can give you more information on when this training will be taking place at your location.