

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Honor and Accountability

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September 27th, 2020

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Share your highs and lows of the week!

Reading: Romans 13: 1-10

Outline:

- I. We honor authority because it is from God (v. 1-2)
 - a. We are called to be subject to governing authorities in our lives; their authority is legitimate
 - b. We desire the good of society, and we seek to work with authority for the benefit of our neighbor

Q: What is the purpose of authority?
- II. We hold authority accountable
 - a. We hold it accountable because we want it to thrive, but we know human authority will not bring perfection
 - b. We long for the good that authority can produce, but we recognize and name the evil it can embody

Q: What does God wish for the people placed in positions of authority?
- III. We reveal a different kind of kingdom (v. 8-10)
 - a. God's kingdom comes through the sacrifice of Jesus, not violence or legislation
 - b. All notions of justice, peace, or wholeness are wrapped up in the gospel

Q: How do we best embody this kingdom?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Why is it important that we regularly pray for our authority figures?
- 2) Have you ever struggled to honor an authority figure God has placed in your life?
- 3) What does it look like to hold an authority figure accountable in our everyday life?
- 4) How could we respond to someone who uses Romans 13 as justification for the complete power of human authority?
- 5) Why do we continue to hold authority accountable when we know it will never be perfect?

Suggestions for further study:

- John 19: 10-11 **Q: What does Jesus teach us here about honoring authority?**
- 1 Timothy 2: 1-2 **Q: What does this verse say about praying for those in authority?**
- 1 Peter 2: 13-17 **Q: How do these verses echo what is said in Romans 13? What else does this verse add?**

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, in your son Jesus you have shown us what your kingdom looks like. You have begun your kingdom among all of our earthly kingdoms through sacrifice, through Jesus's death and resurrection. God we ask that you would pour out your spirit among your people. That we would live lives of love, service, and self-sacrifice. We pray that our fundamental goal is to make God's kingdom known on earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.