

Jesus & Politics: Justice & Mercy

Sermon Notes April 14th, 2024

What this is:

- A guide to finding peace in this divisive time.
- A call to seek God's kingdom above all else
- A reminder that speaking the truth in love is the goal, and one without the other does not lead to discipleship.

What this isn't:

- A guide for where to place your vote.
- An opinion piece on specific political issues.
- A recommendation to avoid engaging in politics altogether.

Romans 13:1-7 NIV

1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Proverbs 8:15-16 NIV

John 19:10-11

God has established government as an _____.

Romans 13:2-7

2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 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. 4 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.

God established government authority to bring about _____ and provide _____ and _____ for its citizens.

Romans 13:5-7

5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. 6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 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.

God calls on His people to _____ and _____ to government authority.

Matthew 22:18-21 NIV

18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? 19 Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, 20 and he

asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" 21 "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed.

Can you disobey divinely appointed authority?

"So, is disobedience to government possible for the Christian? The answer is 'yes' for two reasons. First, no earthly institution, whether monarch or magistrate, possesses absolute authority. The authority of the State is not an inviolable position but a performance of service, a service rendered to God and exercised for the people. The government's authority is, then, conditional upon its performance to meet God's standards of righteousness and to win the consensus of the people in how they wish to be governed. Second, while government is divinely instituted for the common good, and should be obeyed in principle, not every governor is good. Government should not be obeyed in every instance, especially if it interferes with religious liberty, acts unlawfully, or renders harm to its own people." -N.T. Wright & Michael Bird, Jesus & the Powers

With God being the ultimate authority, there are times when civil _____ is God-honoring.

1 Peter 2:13-17 NIV

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

You must live as _____ people who honor God-given authority and yet be _____.

Take Home:

How do we live as free people who honor God-given authority and yet be counter-cultural?

- With a heart full of peace, we use our power and influence to love and serve our community.
- We must evaluate our hearts.
- We must rely on the Holy Spirit to give discernment.
- We must engage in self-sacrificing relationships with people that show respect and mercy.
- We must call out injustice with the motive of God's goodness ruling.
- We must be people of sacrificial good.