



SDG Discussion Guide

"A Vision For Government"

Romans 13:1-7

March 19, 2017

Openers:

What comes to mind when you hear the word "authority"? Why?

Complete the following statement: I am most at peace when...

Group Interaction: *[The following content is meant to supplement the sermon, to offer further points of interaction with the sermon text. Also, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the sermon or text.]*

1. What is Paul's view of authority and those who exercise it?
2. Why does Paul say we should submit to governing authorities?
3. Compare this passage with Acts 5:27-32. What's the difference between submitting to authorities and unconditionally obeying them?
4. Read 1 Corin 2:6-8. Then reread Rom 13:1-7. Discuss the tension in Paul's views in these two passages?
5. Do you think it is ever appropriate to resist rather than submit to authorities? Discuss.
6. How would Paul's view of governing authorities apply to perverse or wicked rulers such as Nero or Hitler?
7. What attitudes towards governing authorities exist in our culture?
8. In verses 6-7 Paul suggests some practical ways we should submit to those in authority. What other examples can you think of?

Take some time to pray together. Persons in your group may be resonating with the passage in different ways. Some may have negative experiences with governing authorities and others positive. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you and give you insight and wisdom into these authority-related matters in your life. Ask God to heal and inspire your understandings and feelings regarding these matters.