

Week 46: The Christian and Civil Government

Scripture Reading:

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." - Rom. 13:1-2

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a prayer, asking God to guide your understanding of the relationship between our Christian faith and civil authority. Pray for wisdom to balance our earthly duties with our heavenly commitments.

Devotional:

The divine appointment of civil government is clear in Scripture. As Christians, we are called to respect and obey the authorities, recognizing that they have been established by God for the welfare of society. This acknowledgment, however, does not mean blind obedience. Our ultimate allegiance belongs to Christ. When there is a conflict between human laws and God's will, we must obey God rather than man. The heroes of faith, like Daniel and the apostles, demonstrated this principle when they chose to follow God's commands over the directives of rulers.

Discussion:

1. In what situations might you be faced with choosing between obeying God and obeying civil authorities, and how should you respond?
(Acts 5:29; Dan. 3:15-18)
2. Discuss the implications of Matthew 22:21 ("Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's"). How can we apply this to our lives today?

Closing Prayer:

Conclude by praying for the leaders of your nation and community, asking God to give them wisdom. Let's also ask for courage and discernment to faithfully represent Christ in every aspect of life, including interactions with civil authorities.