

SMALL GROUP LESSON

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

GOD AND GOVERNMENT

ROMANS 12:1-2, 13:1-7, 1 PETER 2:13-17

This week's sermon and the Scriptures upon which it is based are about our relationship as Christians with those who govern us, both locally, in our state, and across our nation. How should we respond to them and what are our obligations to them? As you reflect upon our pastor's sermon and the passages of Scripture listed above, consider these questions.

1. According to Paul, who has established governing authorities and for what purpose have they been created?
2. How should we as Christians respond to these governing authorities, and what should we expect to happen to us if we disobey them?
3. Both Paul and Peter list a number of obligations that we have to governing authorities. Carefully read both passages of Scripture in Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17 and then list them, especially with regards to our obligations as citizens of the United States of America.
4. Read Matthew 22:21 and Acts 4:19-20, and Daniel 3:17-18. Then consider this question. Is there ever a time when we as Christians have the right to reject what a governing authority desires for us to believe or do? This is a question that arose during the American Revolution when our nation's forefathers rebelled against Great Britain, as well as what took place when Christians like Dietrich Bonhoeffer stood up against Hitler and Nazi Germany during World War II? It is also a question that is becoming increasingly a part of the legal landscape in America today as Christians have to defend their actions and their beliefs in our nation's courtrooms?