
SERMON NOTES September 26, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Deuteronomy 5:16 & 1st Peter 2:13-17 Honoring God-ordained authority Pastor Mike

- I. A _____ and a _____
- a. The command to _____
 - b. The principle of honoring _____
 - c. The promise of a _____
- II. God's _____ of His authority
- a. Our need for _____
 - b. God establishes earthly leaders delegating _____
 - c. God's delegated _____ of authority
- III. The practical challenge of _____
- a. The call to _____ honor
 - 1. Honor is expressed through _____
- Biblical submission means “ _____ ”
- 2. Submitting to authority within the _____
 - 3. When authorities _____ their delegated sphere
- b. The call to _____ honor

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. The 5th Commandment is the only of the Ten Commandments that also includes a promise; *“that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”*
 - a. Practically, what is God promising if we remember and keep this commandment?
 - b. Is it right to see that this promise also implies a warning or threat, that the opposite will happen if we forget and/or break the commandment? If so, what is the warning and/or threat?
 - c. In your experience, how have you seen this promise and/or warning actually play out for those who have kept this commandment and for those who have broken it?

2. The 5th Commandment calls us to honor our parents, setting forth the principle that we should honor all God-ordained authorities. 1st Peter 2 and Romans 13 teaches that we should show this honor by being “subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution.”
 - a. What does it mean to honor and be subject (or submit) to the authorities that God has established?
 - b. The Bible does not call us to obey or governing leaders. What is the difference between submitting to them and honoring them and obeying them?

3. The Bible teaches that God has ordained three primary earthly authorities; the family, the state, and the church.
 - a. How well do you think most Christians understand their responsibility to honor their parents? (see Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20-21; Prov 1:8-9); How well do they understand their responsibility to honor the authorities in the state (see Rom 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17); The authorities in the church (see 1 Tim. 5:17-20; Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess 5:12-13; Titus 3:1-2)?
 - b. In your opinion do American Christians (in general) show proper honor to each of these authorities? In which area do we struggle the most, and why?
 - c. How do you do in showing respect to each of these areas? Which do you struggle with the most? Are there people in authority over you who are not receiving the respect they are due? What can you do to improve in this area?
 - d. Do you agree that the area we tend to talk the least about is the authority God has delegated to the church and its leaders? If so, why is there so little emphasis on this? According to the Bible, how important is submission to church leadership?

4. The Bible is clear that as believers we are to submit to earthly authorities. But from the Revolutionary War, to the Underground Railroad, to the civil rights movement, the history of America tells stories of great movements lead by Christians involved in civil disobedience.
 - a. How does this history of civil disobedience correspond with the Bible’s teaching that we should submit to earthly governments? What does the Bible teach about civil disobedience?
 - b. Can you anticipate any circumstance where civil disobedience might become an issue for American Christians in the 21st century? If so, what might that be?

5. The commandment to honor those in authority calls us to honor the position of authority because of the dignity God has place on the position, even if the person in that position is not worthy of honor. What does it look like to show honor to a position of authority even if you feel that the person in that position is not worthy of that honor?