

# Group Leader Guide

## Sermon Recap

*Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14; 1 Corinthians 16:16; Mark 12:17; Acts 5:29; 1 Timothy 2:1-2*

In the sermon, Pastor Alex emphasizes the importance of submitting to governing authorities as delegated by God, referencing Romans 13. He acknowledges the tension between government and personal beliefs, noting that while authorities are instituted by God for order and justice, they do not hold absolute power over Christians. Pastor Alex encourages the congregation to actively engage in civic duties, such as prayer and voting, while remaining mindful that ultimate allegiance belongs to God. He concludes with a message of hope, reminding believers of their call to be a light in the world, even amid political challenges.

## Quotes

"The authority the government holds is a delegated authority, not an absolute or final authority. It originates with God because He holds the absolute authority." ~Pastor Alex

"Any civil disobedience should be a demonstration of our submissiveness to God not our defiance to the government." or As Charles Colson put it, in the context biblical examples of civil disobedience

In each of these cases its purpose was "To demonstrate their submission to God, not their defiance of government."

## Discussion Questions

What does it mean to submit to governing authorities according to Romans 13:1-7, and why is this important for Christians?

- Pastor Alex talked about Romans 13:1-7, which emphasizes that all authority comes from God and we should be subject to governing authorities as part of our Christian duty.
- In what ways can you practice respecting and submitting to authority figures in your own life, such as parents, teachers, or community leaders?

How can we differentiate between rightful submission to the government and situations where we should resist government authority?

- Pastor Alex mentioned examples from scripture where believers like Peter and the midwives chose to disobey government commands that went against God's will.
- Reflect on a time you faced a rule or expectation that felt wrong. How did you handle it, and what factors influenced your decision?

Why does Pastor Alex emphasize the idea that submission to authority doesn't mean blind obedience? How is this reflected in scripture?

- Pastor Alex clarified that submission is about having an attitude of respect rather than strictly following every command from those in authority.
- Think of a time when you had to respectfully challenge an authority figure. How did you approach that situation?

What is the role of prayer in our relationship with government, and how can Christians use prayer to engage with the authorities?

- Pastor Alex pointed out that praying for leaders is a way to fulfill our responsibility as citizens while holding them accountable.
- How can you incorporate prayer for your government and leaders into your daily routine? What specific issues would you focus on?

The sermon discusses the idea of that the failures of the government to bring about an ultimate true justice creates a longing for Christ to return and bring about the fullness of His perfect justice. How does this relate to the overall message of hope and renewal for believers?

- Pastor Alex connected the need for just governance to the hope that comes from trusting in God's ultimate plan for justice and renewal in the world.
- In what areas of your life do you need to trust God to bring about justice or renewal? How can you actively engage in bringing about positive change as we wait for God's perfect and final justice?

## **Prayer**

- Ask for prayer requests from the group.
- Pray for the strength to apply the message of submission to authorities in daily life.
- Ask God for wisdom in navigating relationships with government and laws.
- Take time to pray for our government. (Use the "Civic Engagement" PDF for some prayers prompts. You can find them on page 3 of the pdf that was emailed out.)

## **Rewatch the sermon**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/p1ISnqUpo0>