SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

- With the coming election and all the hubbub about government, what kind of feelings have you had toward these appointed civil officials? I'm not asking about your party line or personal convictions on issues, I'm asking about your feelings toward the governing authorities God has put in place (will put in place). Do you have a heart of submission? Do you have a zeal to obey from the heart? Or are your struggling with the sins of rebellion and resentment? How can you cultivate a right heart over the course of these next 16 days and beyond (regardless of who takes office)?
- ** Take a look at (1Tim. 2:1-2) "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions..." Write down the name of your Mayor, Senators, Congressmen, Governor, President and Vice President (look them up online if you don't know who they are). Now pray for them, and perhaps make it a new habit.
- What kind of un-submissive, disrespectful, dishonoring behavior, words, or thoughts toward governing authorities do you need to repent of? How would your family, friends, or spouse characterize your relationship towards God appointed government? What needs to change?
- Submission to government means practical things like paying taxes, revenue, respect, and honor (Romans 13:7). Are you willing to obey God in these matters?

We must do more than tolerate government as though it were a necessary evil. We must show honor and respect because it is divinely appointed by God for our good. May the Lord forgive our rebel hearts that refuse to submit. May he expose our sinful attempts to excuse our insubordination. May he give renew our minds and transform our lives such that we have a zeal to submit to our God given authorities. May we remember to pray for them as Scripture commands.

With Gospel Grace, Pastor Lukus

TODAY'S NOTES & TEXT

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Romans 13:1-7 ESV)