

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 10/19/2020-10/23/2020

The following content is based on the message on 10/18/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT

Read Romans 13:1-7. The apostle Paul says that God put government in place. God gives authority to government for the purpose of maintaining order. The government authority should reward good conduct and punish bad conduct. As Christians, we should submit ourselves to these authorities because it's clear from scripture that government has a purpose in this world. But, while government has purpose in this world, we cannot fall into the trap of believing that government will save us in this world.

Only Jesus will ultimately rescue us from the world of sin.

- *How has the U.S. government lived up to God's expectations of government?*
- *How has the U.S. government fallen short of living up to God's expectations of government?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you ways that you need to change your perspective on the U.S. government.*

TUESDAY // AUTHORITY GIVEN BY GOD

Read Acts 4:19 and Acts 5:29. Those who are in authority should have some sort of moral compass. Authority is actually a positive thing when the authority is welded positively. Unfortunately, the government doesn't always meet this standard. Because of this, we often think about the abuse of authority. There are times when the government oversteps its boundaries. Scripture tells us that we are in submission to governing authorities. Yet, we are ultimately in submission to God Himself. Sometimes this may place us in the difficult situation of disobeying the government. We need to be very careful to discern these situations in which God would have us disobey government. This doesn't give us the right to disobey government whenever we don't like something that they do.

Our allegiance is to God, yet God calls us to subject ourselves to the authority of government.

- *What are some ways that you need to check your ultimate allegiance? Do you ultimately submit to Jesus or do you ultimately submit to government? Even if the government hasn't forced you to do something against God's will, how should you test your allegiance?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on the kingly rule of Jesus.*

WEDNESDAY // HONOR THE EMPEROR

Read 1 Peter 2:13-3:7. Regardless of whoever wins the election, the winner should receive honor from Christians. It may seem easy if the person you voted for wins the election. However, the apostle Peter tells us that we need to honor those in government authority. Remember, this section of scripture was written during a time when the Church faced both religious and political persecution by those in political offices. This means that, regardless of political leanings, we should show honor to those in power—even if we disagree with them.

- *Remember that this letter to the Church was written while it was beginning to be oppressed by governing authorities. How do you need to show honor to the emperor or to a possible emperor-elect?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on how Jesus honored you with His life even though you disagreed with Him through your sin.*

THURSDAY // LIVING PEACEABLY

Read Romans 12:9-21. Before the apostle Paul talks about the role of government, he first talks about living peaceably with all. As Christians, we cannot allow our political differences to divide us from each other. Living peacefully with others requires us to think outside of our own interests. Paul lists many ways that the church should be involved in each other's lives. Imagine just for a moment what the world would look like if the church lived like the apostle Paul described.

- *Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you. Re-read today's passage and take attention to how the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. What do you need to do today in order to live more peaceably in the world?*

FRIDAY // LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

Read Romans 13:8-12. Not only does Paul talk about living peaceably before talking about government, but he also commands us to love each other after the section on government. As Christians, we are commanded to love each other. This includes people with whom we disagree. We love each other because salvation is ultimately in Jesus. He is the King of all kings, yet He served us with His life. He set the foundation for Christian love.

Each of our interactions with others should be based on the foundation of Jesus' love for us.

- *Why is it difficult for you to love others who are different from you?*
- *How does Jesus' love for you speak to the way that you should love others?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and reflect on Jesus' love for you personally.*