

Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 23, 2014

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. This weekend we heard about "our strange calling" as Christians when it comes to dealing with a difficult "boss." Can you think of any times you've had to deal with a difficult authority figure? If so, explain.

2. We all have difficult people in our lives (no nudging anyone) and conflict is unavoidable at times. What's your first impulse when conflict surfaces with a difficult person?

Run	Bury your head in the sand
Fight	Argue
Get defensive	Become stubborn
Listen	Problem solve
Panic	Other

DIGGING DEEPER

1. There are many who struggle with the thought of biblical submission to authority. So a challenging relationship with a teacher, boss, or commanding officer can lead to a lot of frustration, especially when we are called to submit to someone who doesn't seem to deserve it. How can the following verses help us gain perspective on why biblical submission to authority is not only mandatory but also essential for us as Christians?

Hebrews 10:32-36

James 1:2-4

Romans 5:1-5

Can you think of any significant character building lessons you've learned in the past when having to deal with a difficult authority figure?

2. Submission is no small challenge when we find ourselves in an immoral or illegal situation. As we saw this weekend, biblical submission does have some limits. How could the following verses help you develop a strategy for dealing with a potentially illegal or immoral situation?

Proverbs 11:14

Acts 5:27-29

Titus 3:1-2

What could be some negative consequences of not putting the verses above into action when encountering a compromising situation?

3. When it comes to figuring out how submission works in real life situations, it's important to remember Jesus isn't asking us to do anything he didn't do for us first. As you read through Matthew 20:20-27, how does Jesus' teaching and example impact your thoughts on having to submit to authority?

If your boss, teacher, parent etc. were to read this passage, how would they say you're doing at imitating what this passage talks about?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

2. What act of submission to authority do you want or need to work on in the next few weeks to more closely follow Jesus' example?

3. Is there any compromising situation (illegal, unethical or immoral) you're encountering you'd like prayer for?

Prayer Requests:

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DIGGING DEEPER

1. There are many who struggle with the thought of biblical submission to authority. So a challenging relationship with a teacher, boss, or commanding officer can lead to a lot of frustration, especially when we are called to submit to someone who doesn't seem to deserve it. How can the following verses help us gain perspective on why biblical submission to authority is not only mandatory but also essential for us as Christians?

Hebrews 10:32-36

³² Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. ³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. *[NIV]*

James 1:2-4

Trials and Temptations

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. *[NIV]*

Romans 5:1-5

Peace and Hope

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord

Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. [NIV]

Can you think of any significant character building lessons you've learned in the past when having to deal with a difficult authority figure?

2. Submission is no small challenge when we find ourselves in an immoral or illegal situation. As we saw this weekend, biblical submission does have some limits. How could the following verses help you develop a strategy for dealing with a potentially illegal or immoral situation?

Proverbs 11:14

¹⁴ For lack of guidance a nation falls,
but victory is won through many advisers. [NIV]

Acts 5:27-29

²⁷ The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."
²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! [NIV]

Titus 3:1-2

Saved in Order to Do Good

¹ Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. [NIV]

What could be some negative consequences of not putting the verses above into action when encountering a compromising situation?

3. When it comes to figuring out how submission works in real life situations, it's important to remember Jesus isn't asking us to do anything he didn't do for us first. As you read through Matthew 20:20-27, how does Jesus' teaching and example impact your thoughts on having to submit to authority?

Matthew 20:20-27

A Mother's Request

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—[NIV]

If your boss, teacher, parent etc. were to read this passage, how would they say you're doing at imitating what this passage talks about?

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