

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

LIVING STONES

HONOR EVERYONE: HUMAN INSTITUTIONS

Human institutions are organizations created by people and established by God. (Ex. Government, military, schools, etc.)

Principles and purposes of submitting to every human institution:

- 1) We are free in Christ.
- 2) The purpose of our freedom is to willingly serve God.
- 3) We serve God when we submit to human institutions.
- 4) God has a purpose for human institutions.

Romans 13:1–4 ... *"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."*

Questions to Consider

- 1) Do I tend to honor and obey governing authorities or resist them? Why?
- 2) What makes it difficult to honor and obey governing authorities?
- 3) How does the example of Jesus Christ teach us to do this even when it is difficult?
- 4) When is it appropriate to not obey governing authorities and how should we lovingly resist as followers of Jesus?

Memory Verse for February

"But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." "

**Genesis 50:
19-20**

From the Resources

"They dwell in their own countries, but only as sojourners; they bear their share in all things as citizens, and they endure all hardships as strangers. Every foreign country is a fatherland to them, and every fatherland is foreign. They marry like all other men and they beget children; but they do not cast away their offspring. They have their meals in common, but not their wives. They find themselves in the flesh, and yet they live not after the flesh. Their existence is on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven."

- Letter to Diognetus

Translated by J.B. Lightfoot