

Small Group Interaction Questions:

MEANWHILE: The Church that lives and waits
“God’s Government” 1/25/09
1 Peter 2:13-17

Dear Friends,

We serve the King of Kings, who is above every rule and reign on earth. So, do we have to concern ourselves with earthly government, politics, and civic responsibilities? Yes, says Peter. In our world, as in Peter’s day, government is everywhere—from the decree to convert to all-digital TV to the snow plow helping us navigate winter roads. Larger issues like the election of a President and the prosecution of a distant war also consume our newscasts. How is a Christ-follower to align himself/herself with proper balance under God and earthly authorities? This study will take us beyond the immediate text. I trust it will cause all of us to acquire a teachability and an openness to being true salt and light in our society. We need the counsel and guidance of other believers to help us navigate a confusing, yet essential relationship with our society.

Pastor Roger

- 1) **Read 1 Peter 2:13-17.** How does the phrase “**for the Lord’s sake**” broaden your perspective, or expand your own private preferences about things that are hard to swallow culturally and politically? Can you give an example from your own life of a spiritual choice to submit to authority?
- 2) For a fuller perspective of God’s working through human institutions and authorities, Read **Romans 13:1-7; Daniel 2:2; Jeremiah 27:5-12.** Why does human government exist? What are its mandates? How is God shaping history through his setting up and taking down of regimes? Is the individual Christian a helpless pawn, or meant to be passively compliant to everything a government does?
- 3) Jesus said, in **Luke 20:25** “...**give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.**” In your mind, what belongs in those two categories? Do you know of examples in church history, or in the global church today, where Christ-followers have made faithful and courageous choices between the two?
- 4) **Acts 5:17-42** tells Peter’s own story of defying authority. He declares: “**We must obey God rather than men!**” (**Acts 5:29**). When must Christians resist, protest, or go against governmental authority? What are some examples of legitimate Civil Disobedience, conscientious legislative reversal, or righteous protest?
- 5) Pray for those in authority over us (**1 Timothy 2:1-2**).