



# Talk it Over

PASTOR DAVE - ROMANS 13:3-7 SUMMARY – 4/19/26

## **KEY SCRIPTURE**

### **Romans 13:1–7 (NASB)**

1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;

4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience ' sake.

6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

## **START TALKING**

If you could be a US ambassador to any country, where would it be?

## **START DISCUSSING**

### **Read Romans 13:1-7**

#### **PRINCIPLE #1 – LAWFUL IS NOT THE SAME AS BIBLICAL**

God's ways are higher than man's.

**How can a deceitful heart take advantage of the law to mistreat someone?**

#### **PRINCIPLE #2 – OUR ENEMY IS NOT FLESH AND BLOOD**

It is easy to see others as our enemy and then fight the battle using strategies of human strength and power. Eph. 6:11-18

**What are the strategies people turn to when fighting in human strength and power? How can we help ourselves to see the real enemy and fight the battle with prayer and the Word?**

#### **PRINCIPLE #3 – DON T FORGET YOU ARE AN AMBASSADOR**

This truth is pivotal; each of us is an ambassador to this world. The Bible repeatedly reminds us we are strangers, aliens, and that this is not our home. 2 Cor 5:17-21.

**Discuss the difference between a citizen and an ambassador.**

#### **PRINCIPLE #4 – HOW CHRIST S AMBASSADOR BEHAVES**

The NT is filled with descriptions of how Christ's ambassador behaves. Pastor Dave listed 40 statements just from Romans 12-13. But the Fruit of the Spirit is a shorter list, and Jesus said that all commands roll into one: Love God and your Neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37-40

**Discuss how this works. How can all the exhortations of scripture roll up into "Love God and Love others?"**

#### **PRINCIPLE #5 – OUR HOPE IS NOT IN GOVERNMENT**

Similar to biblical history, world governments rise and fall, succeed and fail. In the end, they always fall short of the ideal.

**Discuss the eras of failure in the Bible: Patriarchs - Judges - Kings.**

**How does Romans 13:1 help us keep an attitude of hope when leadership continues to fail?**

#### **PRINCIPLE #6 – GOD CAN AND DOES BRING CHANGE**

Pastor Dave used the example of William Wilberforce as one who brought about extraordinary change through prolonged faithfulness. Slavery in the British Empire was ended three days before he died.

**Discuss ways change has come throughout history and notable people God has used.**

#### **#7 – HISTORY ENDS WITH JESUS ON THE THRONE**

The story of human history ends with one who is the perfect Patriarch, Judge, Priest and King and he will rule the world with peace and prosperity. Isaiah 2:2-4

**How does this give us hope today?**

#### **APPLICATION**

What changes need to be made in your life to be a more effective ambassador for Christ?