

# Growth Group Discussion Q's

October 13, 2025

Fun Discussion Starter: "Never Have I Ever" – Name something that you have never done that many others have experienced. Example: "Never have I ever been to an amusement park."

Focused discussion:

Read Text: Romans 13:1-7

In Romans 13:1-7 Paul exhorts his readers to subject themselves to the governing authorities of Rome. His reasoning is that God has instituted human hierarchical systems to maintain standards of rewarding good and punishing evil. Therefore, Paul concludes that who ever resists the authorities, resists what God has appointed.

In context, this statement applies to the emperor, governors and leaders of Rome to whom Paul refers as "servants of God" who carry out his "wrath" (judgment) on the wrongdoer (v.4).

- How does this principle promote the social wellbeing of a community?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to abide by this principle in regular day-to-day life?

It is easy to see the truth of these statements when the leaders in question are good and just. The difficulty comes when the leader(s) to whom we are to submit are not good, but evil.

- How do Romans 12:14-21 inform a believer as to how they should live in a way that honors others despite their evil actions?
- Can you think of a time that you were tempted to "return evil for evil" but instead "overcame evil with good?"

Another solution to consider is the way of the exile prompted by the prophet Jeremiah in Jer 29:4-7.

**Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV) — 7** But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

The prophet Daniel records life in Babylon for the exiled Hebrews.

Read Daniel 3:14-18 –

- How did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego seek the welfare of Babylon while maintaining their ultimate allegiance to God?
- How did God reward the faith of these loyal believers?

Read Daniel 6:4-5 –

- What evidence do we see in Daniel's life (from this passage) that he sought the wellbeing of King Darius?
- What evidence do we see in this passage that it was also apparent that Daniel was ultimately loyal to God?
- How did God reward Daniel (see the rest of Daniel 6)?