

Saturday & Sunday, July 14 & 15, 2018 - "Everyday Saints - Week 6 - Work Within the System" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: 1 Peter 2:13-17, 3:1-7, Ephesians 5:21-22

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- this passage has "household codes" (but we can't just say codes then = codes now because households have changed)
- v13 is a summary of WHAT we are supposed to do and WHY we are supposed to do it
 - What: Be subject to every human institution and honor everyone
 - Why: "For the Lord's sake"
 - Not just honorable people
 - Honor = protect their character, esteem them, respect them
 - We have to ask is what I am about to say/post/type honoring?
 - Our influence for "the Lord's sake" is usually on those who are watching us
- Peter then lists a few different household scenarios or situations
- Slaves and Masters
 - 1st century Greco-Roman world: it was part of the infrastructure
 - There were members of the church who were already slaves and Peter was writing to them how to live
 - It was different than American slavery
 - Most cases were voluntary and contractual
 - Most has time limits and were not enticingly based (Jews, Romans, Greeks) and not to oppress a people group
 - It was still riddle with abuse and oppression and Peter is not endorsing slavery
 - They were called to honor and respect their masters (but also encouraged that Jesus was with them and knew them and what they were experiencing)
- Wives and Husbands
 - Many women had come to faith and had husbands that were not believers (Peter was helping them know how to live at home). It's hard to be an adversary and bring the light of God at the same time
 - The call for husbands and wives who are both believers -> Ephesians 5:21: Submit to ONE ANOTHER out of reverence for Christ (we have a problem with submission)
 - If we struggle to submit to others -> we probably struggle to submit to God (sometimes God puts us in places to submit to learn to submit to Him)
 - KEY: There's nothing oppressive/domineering about God's design for marriage and we are not called to stay in abusive relationships
 - 3:7-> Live with = used to describe physical relationships between men and women
 - Essentially "weaker vessel" meant "you can probably overpower your spouse physically BUT don't"
 - Mean to protect and honor women, not belittle and demean them
- So What? (we're in different cultural situations than they were)
 - Sometimes we have to push boundaries of "human institutions" to love mercy and seek justice (e.g. Dr. King)
 - There is a right way and a wrong way to protest and pursue justice
 - What does God want from me?
 - To bear His image and reflect His glory
 - to sacrifice our rights for others and to suffer for others
 - To work within the system we have been placed in to honor others and to do justice and love mercy

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How has God used your submission to others as a reflection of His glory to others?
2. When was a time where God used you submitting to someone else to teach you how to submit to Him?
3. How has God grown you in honoring and respecting EVERYONE?
4. How do you think God wants to grow you in the way you honor people in the future?
5. Are there areas where you feel called to step out of the boundaries in order to pursue justice?
6. How do you navigate the areas where it is unclear what it means to both pursue justice and submit to every human institution?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: 1 Corinthians 13 Tues: 1 Corinthians 14 Wed: 1 Corinthians 15 Thurs: 1 Corinthians 16 Fri: 2 Corinthians 1

Songs from the weekend: Mountaintops - The Belonging Co. - Tremble - Mosaic MSC - Your Ways - Grace Original - Downpour - Grace Original