

Every church and every person needs to have foundational beliefs that guide and direct life, decisions, direction, and processes. During ‘Foundations’ The Church at Martinsburg will examine the book of Romans and establish core doctrinal beliefs for life, relationships, and mission. This series more than any we’ve done before will set the pace and direction for the church.

**Growth Questions for 8/21/11 – 8/28/11**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. What does it mean to “be subject to governing authorities”? What if our authority is cruel or unjust? What is God’s command concerning “resisting” authority? How does Acts 5:29 help clarify our responsibility?
3. What reasons does God give for submitting to governing authorities in these verses?
4. Discuss Paul’s reasoning in regard to the motive of “fear” addressed in 13:3-5. What does it mean to be in subjection for the sake of conscience?
5. What are the God-ordained consequences of defying government authority?
6. What 4 things are we obligated to render to governing authorities? (13:7) Read Mark 12:17, Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13-17 and Hebrews 11:31. Do these verses help you to further define the Christian’s submission to human governments? In what way?
7. Have you ever been “externally” sitting in submission to authority but “internally” standing up in defiance to authority? Is the motivation for our obedience addressed in these verses? Does it matter if we submit outwardly, but inwardly resist authority? Is that submission?

***Living on Mission***

***Proclaim...Reach...Connect...Go***

1. In terms of our governing system here in the United States, what do you think your submission to authority involves? How do your civil rights and your devotion to God correlate (or do they)?
2. Why is rebellion against authority such a serious matter? Consider the chain of command. Are you “sitting down” on the outside, but “standing up” on the inside? What is God currently saying to your about your heart motive regarding subjection to authorities?
3. What do you think constitutes showing respect and honor to a president? A member of Congress? What might be excluded? In what ways might the demand of these verses change what you say to others, especially those far from God, about elected officials? What does your own submission to governing authorities say about the way that you honor, respect and submit to God?
4. What happens to the message of the gospel and the reputation of God and His people, when Christians are belligerent and disrespectful in the public sector?

**Important Dates**

- 8/21/11           Community Group Sign Up!!
- 8/28/11           Community Groups Kick Off
- 8/28/11           Mission Teams Reporting/Church Planting Announcement
- 9/11/11           Financial Peace University Begins
- 9/25/11           Next Steps w/C@M
- September       Groups/Volunteer Expo