

Proving Ground – Part 3: Says Who? Sunday, August 8, 2021

We all want freedom! If we're brutally honest, we all want some level of control over the quality and direction of life. Along the way, we can get a little fuzzy on the idea of authority. Our tendency is to challenge authority and rebel against rules – in the name of freedom, of course. But freedom doesn't come without authority; freedom comes in the context of authority? And authority doesn't come outside the context of God's purposes and plans.

Read Romans 13:1-7

- How do you typically respond to authority?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word, submit? When it comes to authority, what does it mean to submit (yield, give way)?
- Why do you think God requires us to submit to governing authorities?
- In what ways is it easier to pick & choose what rules apply to us than to obey all the rules?
- What tensions do you feel or see with all authorities being instituted by God? How does that make you feel in relationship to authorities you don't like, respect or agree with?
- What do you think it means that God's work is not limited to or bound by human authority? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- What do you think it means that God works through human authority whether they believe in him or not? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- How does doing the wrong thing lead to fear of punishment from authority?
- How does doing the right thing lead to not fearing punishment from authority?
- Why is it better to make a decision for a clear conscience rather than just punishment avoidance?
- What next step will you take to align your response to human authority with what you believe about God?

Freedom Comes in the Context of Authority