



MACOMB
Christian Church



TWEEN MINSITRY

5TH - 6TH GRADE

Why Should I Respect Authority?

July 19, 2020

Hi! This is Elizabeth again! I hope that you all had a great week last week and got our and enjoyed some sunshine! look forward to seeing you in person when it is possible! I hope you are all doing well and growing in God! 😊

As we always do, I would like to start off with our questions!

- ❖ **Question 1:** What is one good or great thing that happened in your life in the last couple of weeks?
- ❖ **Question 2:** How did you see God working in your life or the world around you during the last couple of weeks?
- ❖ **Question 3:** How have you shown God and His love to the world around you?

I would love for you to email me your answers to the questions above at elroush77@gmail.com !

The Lesson:

(This lesson focuses on how God wants us to respond to those in authority! Please talk about the ideas with your family!)

The BIG TRUTH:

When we respect authority, everyone benefits.

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE:

- ❖ Romans 13:3 – 7

Crater with a view

Looking for an unusual gift for someone? The Lunar Embassy, a U.S. company with “authorized agents” in several other countries, may have just what you need – out space real estate.

A few years ago, the Beijing Lunar Village Aeronautics Science and Technology Company (BLVASTC), an affiliate of the Lunar Embassy, filed suit

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against the government of China. For 300 yuan (about \$37), a customer could buy one lunar acre and rights to all minerals up to two miles beneath the surface. Within days of the company opening for business, the Chinese government suspended the business license of BLVASTC on charges of profiteering and lunacy.

The company wanted that license back. BLVASTC claimed that its business was completely legitimate. “There is not a law of regulation in China that prohibits the selling of land on the moon,” asserted chief executive officer Li Jie.

The basis of Li Jie’s claim is a supposed loophole in the 1967 United Nations Outer Space Treaty. The treaty stipulates that no government can own extraterrestrial property, but does not specifically forbid private or corporate ownership. Because of this, Dennis Hope, the self-proclaimed president of the Galactic Government and “The Head Cheese” of the Lunar Embassy, filed papers with a U.S. Government office for claim registries in San Francisco twenty-five years ago. He claimed ownership of the moon, eight planets of the solar system, and their natural satellites. He then informed the General Assembly of the United Nations and the governments of Russia and the United States. None responded, so Hope takes that as proof that his claim is valid. He followed up with a U.S. copyright registration for his company, the Lunar Embassy. “With the

chaotic aspect of the rules (about out space ownership), “ Hope said, “we just created our own rules.

The Lunar Embassy is a thriving worldwide business. Nearly 3.5 million lunar landowners now exist. Allegedly among them are country music stars Willie Nelson and Toby Keith, Carrie “Princess Leia” Fisher, Jerry “the Beaver” Matthers, several members of the cast of various Star Trek TV shows, and Pope Benedict XVI.

Questions to Consider

- ❖ How seriously do you take the Lunar Embassy? Would you do business with them? Why or why not? Is it necessary for governments to get involved to regulate what it does? Explain.
- ❖ The basic argument of the Lunar Embassy seems to be “What we are doing is legal because no one says we can’t do it.” What do you think of that type of argument? Explain. If you were to guess, what do you think Mr. Hope believes about authority in general? What makes you think that?
- ❖ Describe a time when you used a similar argument to rebel against authority? What happened ?
- ❖ We all have authority in our lives. Sometimes we look for loopholes rather than submitting to and showing respect to authority. Today we will find three biblical reasons to respect authority.

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BIBLE TRUTH 1:

When we respect authority,
we benefit (Romans 13:3)



- ❖ Do you have a good or bad reputation with authority figures in your life? How does your reputation affect how you are treated?

Inside story: There are two rewards for respecting authority. When Christians obey the law, pay taxes on time and honor the position of government leaders, they will be commended (v. 3). There may sometimes be exceptions to this principle, of course, but even dictators appreciate law-abiding citizens who don't cause trouble for them!

The second reward is that others' opinions about us will improve. In the early days of Christianity, rioters claimed that Paul and his followers "caused trouble all over the world ... saying that there is another king, one called Jesus" (Acts 17:6, 7). This was a false charge, but many espoused it. Peter urged believers to "silence the ignorant talk of foolish men" by earning a reputation for being good Roman citizens (1 Peter 2:15).

Reflection:

- ❖ Do you agree? Does your reputation affect how you are treated? Why or why not?

BIBLE TRUTH 2:

When we respect authority, we
escape punishment. (Romans 13: 4, 5)

- ❖ Tell about a time when you had a guilty conscience. How did that affect you?

Inside story: Respect also helps us avoid two negative consequences. First, those who respect authority have little to fear from the penal system! Legal authorities do "not bear a sword for nothing," Paul warned (v. 4). Such authorities are authorized to take money, freedom, and even life from criminals. But, Peter asked rhetorically, "Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?" (1 Peter 3:13).

Secondly, failure to respect authority can result in stress brought on by a guilty conscience and fear of being caught. But good citizens reap the reward of a good night's sleep "because of conscience" (Romans 13:5). When Paul was on trial before Roman authority but knew that he was innocent, he testified, "I strive to keep my conscience clear before God and man" (Acts 24:16).

Reflection:

- ❖ Why is it good to try to keep your conscience clear? Is it difficult to do? Why or why not?

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BIBLE TRUTH 3:

When we respect authority, we help do what God wants them to do.

Romans 13:6, 7

- ❖ In times of crises, communities often rally together. How might that help civic leaders?



Inside story: Finally, when we respect authority, we actually participate in stabilizing the civic order. One way is through taxation. Civil “authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing” (v. 6). By paying taxes we become partners with those who give their lives to promote the peace.

Another way we participate is by giving respect. It is difficult to wield authority without respect. That is why Paul also wrote of the debt of honor we owe authorities (v. 7). By visibly respecting authorities we help them by encouraging others to follow our example.

Reflection:

- ❖ Do you see evidence of communities rallying together? Where and how? Do you think it helps? Why or why not?

Challenge:

- ❖ Write down a couple of authority figures that you need to work on respecting. What are some benefits that you can gain from showing this respect?

Thank you for going through this study with me! I hope that you can find ways to show respect to those in authority.

Now, more than ever, we need to share the love of God with our world! Please be safe this week, enjoy your time with family/friends/zoom calls/texting, etc.!

☺ Please pray for our community and how God can lead you to be an agent of change in it! Please email me (elroush77@gmail.com) your answers to the first questions, reflections and any other questions/comments you might have! I miss you all!

Elizabeth