**Livingway Life Teams - week of May 5**

**getting to know you**

* How well did you respect your parents growing up?
* What is your initial opinion of parents - police - politicians - president?
* Have you ever had a bad experience with a boss?
* What was it - how did it turn out?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

This past week pastor Ted spoke on Spiritual Coverings in your life. Two big areas when understanding authority in your life are - submission and respect of others.

**Tonight, we want to take a closer look at that very thing.**

**1 Peter 2:13-17**

* When you read that verse, what stands out?
* What does this verse tell us about submission and respect?
* What do you if the person is a poor leader?
* Do you think it matters to God how we respond to authority in our life? Why?
* We openly criticize pretty much anything that doesn't line up with what we want. We don't see anything wrong with complaining, whining, and showing disgust to anybody who will listen. What do you think God thinks about this? Why

1. **Respect is in our DNA**

God created us to want respect and to give respect.

* Do you want respect?
* Why do you think we desire to be respected?
* Few things get a parent as upset as disrespect. Why do you think that is?
* Do you find it hard to want to do nice things or wish well for disrespectful people?

There is a since of order and roles imbedding in our DNA. It is a God thing, however, how we are going to respond to it must be a God thing too.

1. **Respect all authority and know that God puts all authority in place**

**1 Peter 2:13-15**

* Would you rather tell someone what you think about them, or respect and submit to them?
* Why do you think it is so hard to respect those in leadership sometimes?

The truth is, God has placed an entire network of people in this world into positions of authority. I'm not just referring to our government leaders, but also to the leaders in our workplaces and in our families. Perhaps it's time to take a look at just how God views authority and our lack of respect thereof.

* Why do you think we all struggle with authority so much?

It is a result of our sin nature - we have rebellion in our heart to all authority and especially the authority of God.

1. **Respect brings favor and protection**

**Romans 13:1-6**

When you are in relationship with God and respect your authority - God provides you with protection and favor. (like - Joseph, Abraham, Daniel). But if you belittle and criticize the people God has placed in authority over you, that protection and favor is lifted from you.

* How do you keep a good attitude while you're doing it?

1. **Respect is given not earned**

- The difference between respect (given) and rapport (earned)

* Why is coming under authority and showing respect so hard at times?

Nobody likes to be told what to do - especially by poor leadership.

1. **God’s plan includes that we have Spiritual Authority in our life**

- Pastors and spiritual leaders in our church.

**Hebrews 13:17, Hebrews 13:7, 1 Corinthians 16:15-16, 1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 Proverbs 24:20-23, 1 Timothy 2:1-3**

* When you think of respecting and obeying spiritual authority what does that mean to you?
* Why do you think people resist this so much? It has been abused.
* According to the verses we just read - What are ways we can respect authority?

Listen, submit, pray for them, set the example in how you speak and attitude, know ahead of time that you are not going to like every decision, trust the Lord to take care of the situation

1. **You can disobey authority - if....\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* When, if ever, is the right time to disobey authority? Why?

**When actions of injustice and sin are present**

**Acts 4:19, 5:28**

* Is there a way to remain respectful and disobey? How?

1. **Never forget! Jesus is the final authority**

**Matthew 28:18**

* Do you believe that? How do you live that truth out?
* 2 Peter 2:12-17 tell us to "Submit to all authority... Respect everyone... honor our leaders" How can you live this out today and everyday?

**TAKING IT HOME** (leaders mention the take home – over it briefly)

* Do you desire respect and authority? Read the following verse about being a leader? **Mathew 23:10-12, Mark 10:42-44, Luke 9:48, Luke 22:25-27**

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**1. Respect is in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

- God created us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ respect and to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ respect.

**2. Respect all authority and know that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ authority in place**

**3. Respect brings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4. Respect is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

-The difference between respect (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) and rapport (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

**5. God’s plan includes that we have Spiritual Authority in our life**

**6. You can disobey authority - if...**

* When actions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are present

**7. Never forget! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the final authority**

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