

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Chapter 33 – Praying for Authorities

Park Plaza Brookside * Fireside Room

June 19, 2016



FATHER'S
DAY

WE LOVE YOU

Happy Father's Day!

- Church on the Move
- Dad's Life
- <https://youtu.be/DOKuSQIJlog>

Titus 3:1-2 (NIV)

- Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

Titus 3:1-2 (NKJV)

- Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

Titus 3:1-2 (MSG)

- Remind the people to respect the government and be law-abiding, always ready to lend a helping hand. No insults, no fights. God's people should be bighearted and courteous. (MSG)

Context

- Written in 66 AD, during the reign of Nero (54 to 68 AD)
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nero>
- In 64 AD, most of Rome was destroyed in the Great Fire of Rome, which many Romans believed Nero himself had started in order to clear land for his planned palatial complex.
- Nero was rumored to have had captured Christians dipped in oil and set on fire in his garden at night as a source of light.

Romans 13:1 (NIV)

- Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.
- Typical American Response: Really? Are you kidding me? I'm outa here!

Why?

- Prayer and authority are a powerful combination!
- The Roman Centurion understood authority

1 Timothy 2:1-2

- I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, **that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.** (Emphasis added.)

Biblical Example – Compare

- Moses vs. Aaron
- Ten Commandments vs. Golden Calf
- Which one allowed the Israelites to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness?

Why?

- Our authorities either
 - HELP us in doing the will of God, or
 - they make it HARDER for us to pursue the will of GOD

Romans 13:2 (NIV)

- Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

Biblical Examples – Help or Harder?

- Joseph (2nd only to Pharaoh)
- Nehemiah (the cup-bearer to Cyrus and reconstructor of Jerusalem)
- Mordecai (cousin of Esther)
- Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego
- Daniel

Real World Example

- On June 17, 2016, a German judge convicted 94 year-old former Auschwitz guard Reinhold Hanning on 170,000 Counts of Accessory to Murder. (From January 1942 to June 1944, he served as an SS guard.)
- Sentenced to 5 years
- During its existence, over 1 million people were exterminated at the Auschwitz camp during World War II
- What should he have done?
- Would it have made a difference?

Pray For What?

- Their salvation
- For their ability to lead and/or govern
- For their commitment to the highest standards and priorities
- Personally and professionally

Pray for Whom? – Family Leaders

- Families – operate best when following God’s design.
- Husbands & Wives
- Parents & Children

Colossians 3:18-21 (NIV)

- Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything; for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Comments – Family

- Husband is the head of the family; Wife is the neck that turns the head (Thank-you Farrell and Y’Vaughan!)
- Notice the Point-Counterpoint, the “Quid Pro Quo”
 - First wives, then husbands
 - Children, then fathers (where are the mothers?)
- Note: Even though I am married with my own family. Do my Parents still have authority over me? Do my wife’s Parents have authority over me? Expanding?
- Pray up and down the chain

Pray for Whom? – Spiritual Leaders

- Hebrews 13:1 “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”

Pray for Whom? – Spiritual Leaders

- Elders
 - We share problems with them. Who do they share their problems with? Do they approach God Almighty on his throne on our behalf?
 - Shouldn't we “cover” them in PRAYER?
- Deacons
- Ministers, Faculty & Staff?
- Again, pray up and down the chain

Pray for Whom? – Governmental Leaders

- This Year we are electing ...
 - Mayor (City)
 - Sheriff (County)
 - State Representatives and Senators
 - Congressmen (Federal)
 - President (Federal)
- Our state and country needs LOTS of prayers!

Pray for Whom? – Governmental Leaders

- Faithfully pray for your country's leaders and elected officials, even those whose views differ from yours, knowing their leadership touches the lives of the many people under their jurisdiction.
- God uses imperfect authorities to carry out his perfect purposes. (John 19:11; Acts 4:24-28)
- The Lord is able to turn the heart of a king or ruler. (Proverbs 21:1)
- Our prayers is how he does it – not through email chains.

Pray for Whom? – Governmental Leaders

- Chairman Mao Zedong persecuted the Christian church almost to extinction in Communist China
- No road system in China – 7-month journey by mules not uncommon
- 300 languages and 1,000 dialects – Signed a decree making Mandarin the official language
- Simplified the 47,000 character language to 1,500 so his “red book” could be easily carried

Imperfect Authorities – Mao Zedong

- Now, Mao Zedong is dead
- Road system allows missionaries to reach remote areas in a week
- One language with a smaller alphabet has simplified the translation of a Chinese Bible from the original languages
- Now, the once purged Church (formerly divided along “Western” denominational lines) has organically grown exponentially
- Again, pray up and down the chain

Pray for Whom? – Employers

- Employers are charged with 5 responsibilities
- Providing direction, instruction and an example to follow
- Protecting with boundaries and rules (Don't mistreat my staff!)
- Praising those who do right
- Punishing those who do wrong
- Pointing others to Christ

Colossians 3:22 – 4:1

- Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Pray for Whom? – Employers

- Is this a special type (i.e. civil) of priesthood? If so, an interesting characterization.
- Hobby Lobby, Mardel's & Chick-Fil-A
- Is your job a special type of ministry? Could you even be considered a special type of missionary?
- Why are Monday mornings so difficult? First fruits of the week?
- Again, pray up and down the chain

Bonus Quote - Prayer

- “The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.”

– FB Meyer

Continue to Pray for Us!



- Clint Hill
- Chris Mayfield
- Reece Morrel Jr.

Closing Prayer

Father, we acknowledge that all authority is from You and that all of our authorities only have power because of You. We choose to pray for the biblical, governmental, family, and employment authorities You have placed over our lives as a demonstration of our submission to You. Please draw them to salvation and give them a fear of the Lord in all their decisions. Use them to guide, protect, praise, and discipline us in order that we might do Your will, even as we do the same for those under our authority. Use us to be a blessing. Grant us favor so we can daily help people live out their full potential under Your total authority and lordship. In the name of Jesus. Amen.