

2021 Men's Training Camp - Sunday Breakout Session - Mr. Rod McNair – “The Example of the Apostle Paul”

Acts 22:30 - Paul was entrapped by the Jews, saved by the Romans, then brought to trial. 23:1 - "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." He barely got those words out before he was struck in the mouth! Paul gave it right back when he was unjustly treated. However, upon learning that it was the high priest, he relented, even quoting the Scriptures, saying not to speak evil of a ruler of your people. "I didn't know." He put on the brakes! "No matter what else is going on, I didn't know. I have an obligation to respect the office." (Of course, he continued to defend himself, nonetheless.)

There were some problems with the high priest. It was very political, money had to exchange hands to be there, and they were "in bed" with the Romans. It was a position that earlier caused the Messiah to be killed. There were a lot of reasons to disrespect the office. Yet he didn't. That says a lot about followership.

Exodus 22:28 - "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people." This statute *immediately* came to Paul's mind. How can this apply for us? Is there ever a time where we have to think through this?

- Society
 - Politics - Romans 13:1-2 - Paul later expands this concept to any authority, even within the Roman government. This includes Emperor Nero, who was a terrible person. 13:5 - You must THINK this way! It has to be engrained in your conscience.
 - I Timothy 2:1 - Intercessory prayer! When we think about this concept, it's for cancer, older people, sick, poor, overseas issues. But what about those in authority? Give THANKS for our kings and all in authority. These are secular authorities who, most of the time, are corrupt and immoral. Then he talks about how Christ is the Mediator between God and men. He is an intercessor between us and everyone. When we're praying for our leaders, we're following the model of Jesus Christ
 - This does NOT mean we check our brain at the door, but we change our attitude toward the person, personally.
- Home
 - Are the parents on the same page?
 - The home is where our children learn right government. Ephesians 6:1 - Honor your father and mother; obey them in the Lord, for this is right. Exodus 20 - Honor them no matter what!
 - Father/husband - How do I expect my children to do these things, if in my conversation around the dinner table, I'm tearing down others? If I'm tearing down my wife? How do I relate or submit to the leaders of the Church? How do I talk about the President? We are the light!

- Church

- If I don't particularly agree with a decision a minister or leader in the Church makes, does that mean I can tear that person down?
- There really is authority in the Church. Ordination, laying on of hands, being given responsibility by God. Too many people today think that doesn't mean anything. There are a lot of online resources that comment on the opposite side of any issue the Church decides. Yet God puts an element of the holy spirit in His leaders to make such decisions.
- What happens if the whole Church goes into apostasy? It has happened!
- Michael didn't bring a reviling accusation against Satan (Jude 9)

Commented [JM1]: Not sure if he's advocating this or not

The line is between the merit of a decision vs. tearing down the person.