Gospel Obedience - Romans 13:1-14

Note: you'll need to print out copies of the passage on page 2 for your group.

Pray for our mission partners and your time time in the word	
Notice	

1. Look back over last week's passage and share: how did you go at putting into practice the things you shared about?

2. Read 13:1-14
   On your own, use the printout and mark...
   a. Anything that stands out to you
   b. key words or connections you notice
   c. any questions you have

   Share them with your **neighbour**.

Clarify	
Re-read 13 3. What reasons does Paul give to submit to the government? 4. What might be surprising about this command in Paul's context? 5. What do these passages reveal about how God's authority relates to civil leaders? **(1-2 ppl / passage)** a. John 18:36, 19:11 b. 1 Peter 2:13-17 c. Acts 4:18-19, 25-30 d. Acts 16:35-40 e. Dan 4:17, 25, 32 6. Rom 13 gives a statement of the divine intent of human authority. These other passages show there's some nuance to how it works in reality. What dangers can you see in applying the command to submit to authorities a. Too literally / simplistically b. Too subjectively / overqualifying it? 7. What is the average Australian's attitude towards authority? What might it look like to live with a distinctly Christian attitude to government?	**prompts** /notes if needed: 3 4. Prompt: "what do we know about jewish and Roman authorities in Paul's day?" (both were largely hostile towards Christianity) 5. You could ask "what is modelled or instructed for Christians relating to authority? 6.a) to simplistic approach leads to blind obedience potentially into sin. Courage to differ and do right is required. b) too nuanced an approach risks removing the command of any weight, excusing disobedience to God!
Respond	
8. What's one thing you feel convicted to grow in based on this passage? Take some time to pray for **one another** in response to this passage and also for our various levels of **government**	
Pray in your pairs -	

13:1 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. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is
rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring
judgment on themselves. 3 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. 4 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. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the
authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of
conscience.
13:6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who
give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you
owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor,
then honor.