

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Everlasting God, The Lord Reigns, Trust and Obey, Alive in You

WELCOME

Made Me Smile. Briefly share what made you smile the past week.

WORD

ROMANS 13:1

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

OBEY WITH A SMILE

As followers of Christ, our motivation in everything we do should be our love for God and our desire for others to experience that love.

God's calling for us is to fulfill the mission of loving God and loving others. Loving God entails that we obey His Word and His appointed authorities. This is not just plain obedience but obeying with a smile.

Obeying with a smile is seeking and doing things that will please God and make Him smile. Whatever we do, we should see Him smiling at us saying, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." Obeying authorities with joy regardless of who they are will ultimately give us life-lasting values for our own good and protection (**Romans 13:1-2**).

In everything that we do, we should not focus on the authorities over us but on Him who is the Master over all authorities. Paul says that our citizenship is in heaven (**Philippians 3:20**). Thus, we should represent the kingdom of God. We are here to proclaim His excellencies, to glorify Him and to honor Him. When we submit to God and His appointed authorities, it is for our protection because He cares for and loves us.

THE BEING OVER ALL AUTHORITIES

Whether we like it or not we are all subject to certain authorities in life. It could be our parents, a husband, your boss, a pastor, the government, etc. Many times, it is not easy to follow these authorities, but as children of God we know that our obedience to them is ultimately related to our obedience to God, who is above all authorities. We obey them as unto the Lord (**Ephesians 5:22; 6:1, 5-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14**). God

is the Master of all authorities. No matter how good or bad our earthly leaders may be, they are all accountable to God (**Ephesians 6:9**).

Should we have issues with leaders above us, we can bring the matter to God and ask Him, who is sovereign over all, to make them turn to His will (**Proverbs 21:1**). This will grant us not only dignity and but also a quiet life (**1 Timothy 2:1-2**).

In the Bible, rebellion and arrogance against authorities is likened to evil deeds (**1 Samuel 15:23**). We can learn so much from David who had a chance to kill Saul but spared Saul's life because he knew he was the anointed king (**2 Samuel 24, 26**).

In difficult circumstances, be patient, for God sees any injustice and every ill doing of our leaders, and He will come as Judge over all (**James 5:4-9**). Our earthly masters may not see our faithfulness but God sees it, He delights in us and He will reward us accordingly in His time.

OBEYING TO HONOR

God instructed us to honor everyone, most especially the leaders above us (**Romans 12:10**). He desires us to be submissive to our masters in all respect regardless of the kind of people they are (**1 Peter 2:16-18**). The idea is to honor kings without qualification whether they are honorable or not.

We honor our leaders through having humility, by regarding them with greater importance than us (**Philippians 2:3**). And if we can honor the unreasonable leaders, all the more we should honor our leaders who are believers (**1 Timothy 6:2**). Sometimes, we tend to disregard our Christian leaders or set very high expectations of them that we

WORD (cont'd)

condemn and judge them whenever they fail. One way to know if we are obeying and honoring our leaders is when they watch over us with joy (**Hebrews 13:17**).

WINNING PEOPLE FOR JESUS

Our act of obedience to God and submission to the authorities regardless of their qualifications is a testimony to others that our God is real and true, which will draw them closer to God (**1 Peter 2:12-15**). If we keep complaining about our leaders, will we win our unbelieving family and friends for Jesus?

You may be attending your Dgroup regularly, volunteering in ministries, and participating in various church activities, but if people see you

disobeying your parents, disrespecting your spouse, dishonoring your boss, or complaining about other authorities in your life, then you may have a difficult time witnessing to the people in your life and inviting them to follow Jesus.

People will not believe what we believe unless they see the fruit of our faith. Our obedience to God and His Word is our badge that we belong to Jesus (**John 13:33-34; 1 John 5:1-3**). When we obey our earthly masters with a smile, we are after making Jesus happy. This makes us contagious and able to bring more people closer to Jesus.

Obedience to authorities gives us better opportunities to win for Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Who Rules.** Who established the governing authorities according to **Romans 13:1**? Is it easy to obey authorities? Why do you say so?
- 2. Obedience Quotient.** On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest, how do you rate yourself in terms of obeying the authorities in your life? How can you improve your obedience toward your authorities?
- 3. Obey Now.** Which commandment of God are you being prompted to faithfully obey now? Briefly share what you commit to do starting today.

WORKS

B.O.W.

Being Obedient Wins.

People will not listen to you until they see the fruit of your belief. Write down the areas of your life which you intend to improve on so that your testimony would be effective in inviting them to know Jesus.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends