

Icebreakers:

1. What is your favorite boardgame? Who taught you how to play?
2. Do you tend to be more of a compliant person by nature, or do you tend to push the envelope by nature? How old were you when this became obvious?

Sermon Summary: God wants us to engage our hurting society and address its problems, but He wants us to do so on His terms. Those terms begin with working *within* the system to seek justice. We do this by obeying the rules ourselves, and then holding the system accountable to follow its own rules and improve itself.

Discussion Questions:

1. What feelings have come to the surface in you as you've watched the news reports during the unrest that has followed George Floyd's death?
2. Have you felt any pressure to respond to these events in some kind of public or social media forum?
3. Is it better to speak out and perhaps have to retract your statements later as more information comes out, or to stay silent and not weigh in at all? What are the positives and negatives of each option?

*Work Within the System

4. How can a preoccupation with seeking justice or other political matters potentially cause us to lose sight of our central mission as Christians?
5. What kinds of pressure can we and should we bring to bear on our government to hold it accountable to follow its own rules?
6. How can you tell when you've gone too far (in challenging the system to be accountable) and are displaying a rebellious or unsubmitive spirit?
7. Are there implications for child-rearing? How can we teach our kids to obey the rules of our homes while at the same time training them to hold the system (in this case, the family rules) accountable & make it better?
8. Should a Christian pursue politics as a career? If so, how can those Christians make sure they don't lose sight of their central mission as Christians?
9. How would you love to see our current government system improve itself? What changes would you like to see made? What changes might God like to see made to our society?
10. How does "working within the system" look differently if you put your hope in the political system vs. putting your hope in God and His mission?



WORK IT OUT

Developing a Healthy Faith

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 4 • 6/7/2020

The Rules of Engagement

Titus 3:1, Acts 16:35-39

Introduction: Our country is hurting, and God wants us to engage...but according to His agenda, not anyone else's!

Rules of Engagement:

▪ Work _____ the _____.

***But HOW should we do that?**

⇒ _____ the System's _____. (3:1)

⇒ **Hold the System** _____ to _____ **its own rules.**
(Acts 16:35-39)

⇒ **Help the System** _____ **itself.**

Conclusion: We have a responsibility to transcend the current political debates and engage our culture as God would want us to. Are you ready to work within the system to bring about justice and change?