

Vocation

God's Callings in Our Lives

Lesson 7: Your Calling in as a Citizen

Outline

- Lesson 1: Introduction/Course Overview
- Lesson 2: How God Works Through People
- Lesson 3: The Purpose of Vocation
- Lesson 4: Finding Your Vocations
- Lesson 5: Your Calling as a Worker (More Than Just Paid Jobs!)
- Lesson 6: Your Calling in the Family
- Lesson 7: Your Calling as a Citizen
- Lesson 8: Your Calling in the Church
- Lesson 9: Trials and Difficulty in Vocation
- Lesson 10: Final Thoughts/Wrap-Up

Note: Outline and some concepts adapted from God At Work by Gene Edward Veith

Introduction--To Get the Juices Flowing

- Two very different people
 - Patriot Pat
 - Worrisome Will
- Election year issues
 - Is it my Christian duty to be involved in the political process, and if so, how?
 - Should I only vote for Christians?
 - Should a Christian run for office
- Is the U.S. a Christian nation?
- How much do we need to agree with what the government is doing to go along with it?

Rom 13:1-6

(Might be Called "Vocation in Government")

- Point 1: We are to "be subject" to the governing authorities
 - What does this mean (in a general sense--no caveats for now)?
- Point 2: God is the one who instituted/established/ordained/appointed the existing authorities
 - What are the alternatives to this?
- Implication of Point 2: When we resist the authority, we are resisting God (v. 2)

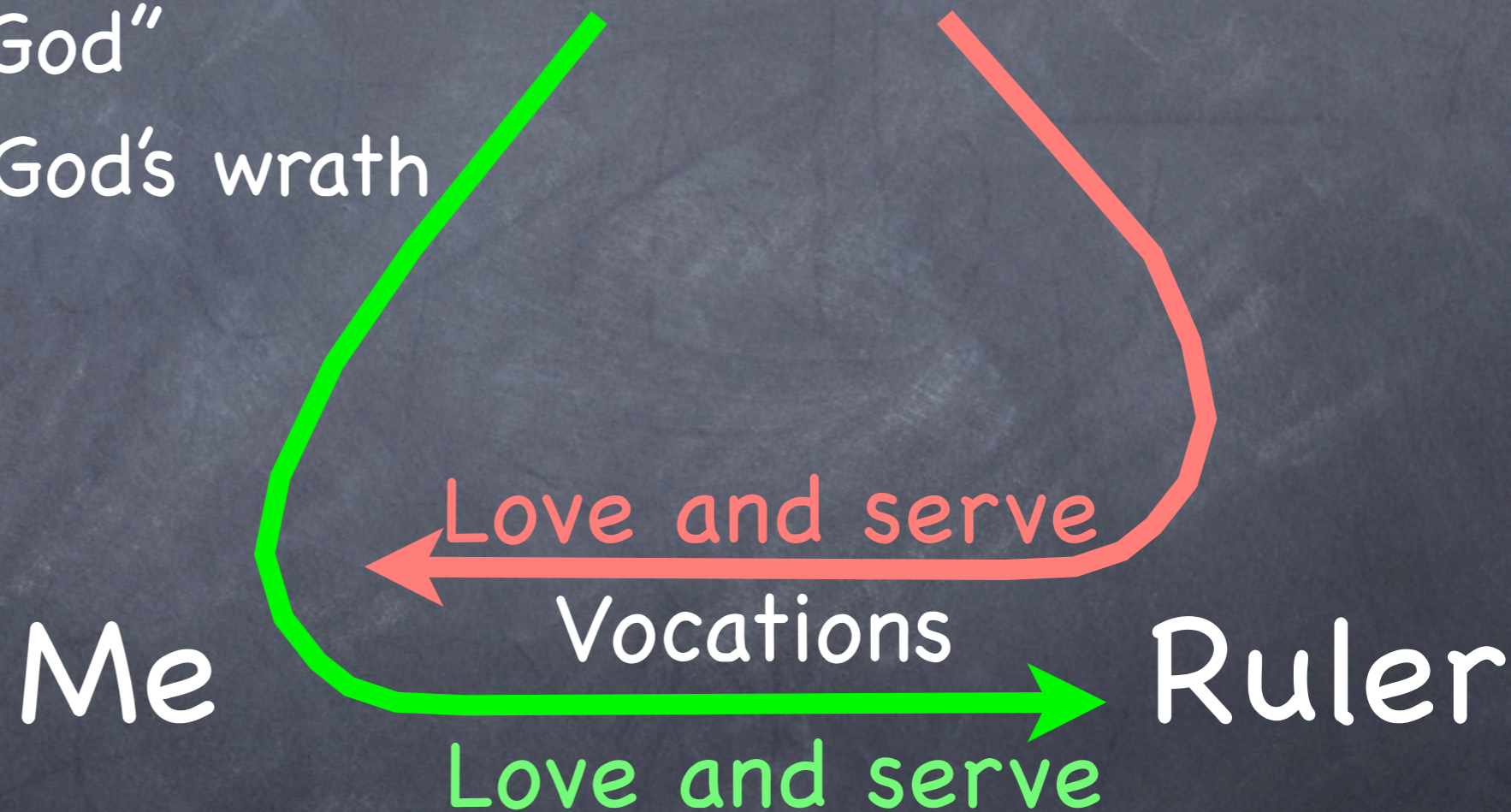
Rom 13:1-6

(Might be Called "Vocation in Government")

- Point 3: Rulers are called to punish bad conduct (vv. 3, 4)

God

- "Servant of God"
- His wrath is God's wrath



Rom 13:1-6

What About Bad Rulers?

- Comment: This passage was written in the middle of the reign of Nero!
- Point 1: Just about any ruler, even the worst one, is better than total anarchy

Rom 13:1-6

What About Bad Rulers?

- Point 2: There is Biblical warrant for disobeying (i.e., not being subject to) the ruling authorities
 - Examples
 - Exodus 1:15-17
 - Dan 3:8 ff.
 - Matt 2:12
 - Heb 11:23
 - What is common among all of these?
 - When must we disobey our leaders?
 - Note: We're not talking here about disagreeing with our rulers, but disobeying them (i.e., political discourse and argument is often appropriate)

Our Context: The United States

- My assertion: Until recently, there has been very little/no DIRECT disagreement between what God says and what the law says, on an individual level
- Do you agree?
- Is this changing?

Key Concept: Christianity is Not a Cultural Religion

- Being Christian does not mean adhering to a particular culture
 - Biblical rationale
 - John 18:33–36
 - Eph 6:10–12
 - Theme through the Gospels of Jesus not allowing himself to be made a political ruler
 - Early church leaders (Paul, Peter, etc.) did not connect Christianity with a particular culture (once Peter overcame his bias towards the Jewish culture)
- This contrasts with Islam, Hinduism, and others
- How does this impact our understanding of God's calling on our lives as citizens?

Balancing Concept: Christians Are to Be Salt and Light Within Their Culture

- Matt 5:13–16
 - What is the ultimate goal of being “salt and light”?
- 1 Thess 4:10–12
- 1 Pet 2:13–17
- What are the implications of this in regards to our callings as citizens?
 - Voting
 - Attempting to have a good reputation with outsiders (fellow citizens)