Leadership 102 Patricia Ibarra

Week HW

**Lesson 5 Questions**

1. As Western Christians, why is it so difficult for us to submit to an authority figure in our lives whom we don’t respect?

*Because we believe that if we do not agree or respect a person in authority over is, we do not have to submit. We need to remember who placed that individual in authority over us and understand that if we do not submit to that person we are failing to submit to God.*

1. How has God used difficult situations with authority to produce good in your life?

*I have learned to submit, just recently if fact. I have been unhappy at work because I believed that I was the best person to “handle” certain tasks in the office when the Director’s admin leaves on Maternity Leave. I have been struggling for a long time on why my director always seems to overlook me and my abilities. I felt like I was invisible, and it hurt, and I was offended. I was so absorbed in what I wanted, what I believed that I was entitled to, I was blind to the truth that what I thought I deserved was not in God’s plan for me. Now that I have finally realized this fact, I have a peace at work I have not had in a long time. I also am happy for the individuals that are getting recognized.*

1. When we choose honor and submit to difficult leaders, what are we saying to God?

*When we submit and honor difficult leaders, we are saying to God I trust you and I will obey You.*

1. In the four areas of delegated authority (civil, church, family, and social), which one do you find hardest to respect and submit to?

*Probably civil. I have always had a strong opinion about politics and loudly voiced those opinions that were posted on social media. However, because I now know God more and realize that our current leadership was placed there by God, I no longer post disrespectful comments about the government leaders I do no not care for.*

1. If we understand the concepts in Romans 13, we begin to understand how we should treat authorities. What can you do in a practical sense to support the authorities above you (bosses, church leaders, and so forth)?

*It is what I do. I submit to my leadership in my deeds. It is in my spirit that I sometimes have frustration. It is in my spirit I want to improve and be submissive in action and spirit.*

1. Romans 11:33-34 talks of God’s wisdom and knowledge and how unsearchable His ways are. How do you react when you fail to understand God’s way?

*As of late when I find myself getting worked up about a situation that makes not sense to me and I start chasing my tail so to speak. Suddenly I stop and say to God “it is your will not mine. Your ways are higher than mine it is not for me to understand but to trust You.*

1. The Bible calls us to pray for all those who are in authority. How can you ensure you do this daily?

*Add it to my prayer list. I do pray for all those in authority just not daily.*

1. God’s priority is your redemption, not your comfort or enjoyment. How are people being deceived into believing God wants them to be prosperous more than He desires them to be righteous?  What is happening to Christianity as a result of this idea?

*According to our readings people are deceived by the secret power of lawlessness. The reason with themselves that this what God wants for them because they want it for themselves more than they want to obey God.*

*This idea has caused Christians to lose their reverent fear of God and the belief that we are always commanded to obey God’s Word.*

**Lesson 6 Questions**

1. The idea of honoring authority is, at times, foreign in our society. How have you been taught to honor and respect those in authority over you?

*As a child I was taught respect of our elders. Which seeped over to respect those in authority over me. It is something for the most part stuck with me my entire life. But before I was saved, I fell into the deception that if I did not respect them, I did not need to obey them. Now that I know the Lord. I continually fall back on his commands about honoring and obeying authority. Most importantly I remember that I want all my actions and thoughts to honor God.*

1. How does the fear of the Lord help you honor the authority in your life?

*It is my love and fear our Lord that I can honor all authority in my live. If I did not have that I would most certainly go back to my old ways, reasoning or justifying not honoring someone in authority was acceptable because I did not like or respect them.*

1. The Bible says to give double honor to those whose work is preaching and teaching (our pastors, Bible study leaders, missionaries, and so forth). What does this look like in day-to-day life?

*To honor these individuals in my life is easy because they are amazing teachers. God has placed me in an amazing church family!*

1. When you honor authority, whom are you ultimately honoring?

*When I honor authority, I am ultimately honoring God.*

1. You may have experienced mistreatment by a person in authority. How has that shaped the level of honor you give authority now?

*In my past my level of honor was mediocre at best. Doing it because I did not want to lose my job mostly. But again, since I have been saved and have been taught that when I honor those in authority over me, I am honoring God, my level of honor has elevated.*

1. Why is it important for Christians to honor those in leadership in our culture? What message does it send when Christians dishonor those in authority?

*It is important for Christians to honor those in leadership in our culture because we need to show the world that we are true the Word of God, authentic. If we claim to be Christians, then disrespect and bash those who are in authority over us we will lose our credibility as Christians and will become ineffective at converting them to Christ.*

1. How have you honored or dishonored those in authority over you?

*I have dishonored those in authority in the past by questioning their directives to me in a rebellious manner, I have complained about them to coworkers, and did my best to “reveal” their flaws as a leader.*

*I now honor authority by doing the opposite of how I dishonored authority. I do as I am told. I do not undermine them when I have opportunity to do so. How I respond when I do not agree with my leadership, is completely different now too. I will get over my internal conflict and then give it to God because I know I cannot change the situation, I know I do not know why I am being led in the way I am at odds with but I know God knows and is in control. I fail at times, but I repent then am obedient.*