

I URGE YOU, FIRST OF ALL, TO PRAY FOR PEOPLE. ASK GOD TO HELP THEM; INTERCEDE ON THEIR BEHALF, AND GIVE THANKS FOR THEM. PRAY THIS WAY FOR KINGS AND ALL WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY SO THAT WE CAN LIVE PEACEFUL AND QUIET LIVES MARKED BY GODLINESS AND DIGNITY.

In the HBO Series *Band of Brothers*, the main character, Lieutenant Richard Winters, trains under cruel and hard-hearted Captain Herbert Sobel to lead one of the first Airborne Infantry platoons in the United States Army. Fast-forward many episodes and battles later, Richard Winters is now a Major and superior officer. Captain Sobel is walking by and first tries to ignore Winters, forgoing the salute due as differences in authority. Winters responds saying, “You salute the rank, not the man.”

Honor is easy when we know and like someone. When it’s our spouse, our child, our friend, our colleague, our pastor, or anyone who sees things the way we do, it’s natural to see them as a part of the family and “worth” the honor we give. Admittedly, when we disagree with those same people, it becomes more difficult to give the honor, but we often “justify” honor because we want to maintain the relationship. What do we do when we don’t have relationship with the person, or if we fundamentally disagree with them even though we have to follow them because they hold a position of authority or power?

The biblical writers instruct us to honor all leaders—and really every person—regardless of how we feel. We should show respect to everyone (1 Peter 2:17), and subject to authorities since all authority that exists comes from God (Romans 13:1). Even as a people in exile, we should seek the peace and prosperity of the places we live (Jeremiah 29:7). Why?

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Practically, so that we can live in peace but ultimately, because they, too, bear God’s image (Genesis 1:26). In the words of one of our 12 Stones, we give honor to those we lead, we work beside, and those we follow. The Cross gives every human being immeasurable worth. And we will treat people with the honor the Cross displays and demands they deserve.

### Prayer:

Father God, we know that You channel the hearts of leaders like rivers. Turn our ears to wisdom and apply our hearts to understanding. Keep our leaders upright and blameless so that we would honor and love the way You have called us to do.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### Additional Scriptures:

Genesis 1:26 | Jeremiah 29:7 | Romans 13:1 | 1 Peter 2:17