

SERMON NOTES:



24th May, 2026

Part 4 - For the Life of the World
Justice and Order

Pastor Mick Spann

Big Idea:

- God calls His people to live faithfully in Babylon

Key Passage: Romans 13:1-7

Humanity societies typically seek:

- Justice, Peace, Stability and some element of human flourishing

This reflects God's design for order over chaos

According to Romans 13:1–7, government is not inherently evil. Authorities can:

- Restrain evil
- Encourage flourishing
- Maintain order
- and serve God's purposes

Ultimately, all authorities are accountable to God

But Scripture is Realistic About Power... Authorities can be:

- Corrupt, Oppressive, Dominating and seek to become like 'god' in their own eyes.

The breadth of Scripture paints the picture that authorities are:

- Not divine, beyond criticism or always righteous... but still under the sovereignty of God.

Consider Jesus conversation with Pilat (John 19:10-11)

Order vs Chaos

God values order, human flourishing and responsible stewardship.

And there are good examples of these things all over our society.

But every human faces a choice similar to that of Cain (Genesis 4:6-8):

- Rule over the wild beast of sin... Or be ruled by it

Societies face the same choice:

- Will our stewardship lead to human flourishing? Or for selfish domination?

Seeing Leaders Clearly

Political leaders are not angels or demons... They are humans made in God's image but damaged by sin.

Therefore:

- Pray for them
- Engage thoughtfully
- Resist hatred and outrage

The Central Question:

How do we Honour authorities and seek the good of society without worshipping Babylon or becoming like Babylon ourselves?

The surprise of Revelation:

God's people do NOT overcome evil with evil... (E.g. becoming beastly, using fear, domination and violence)

Instead they overcome by clinging to Jesus and His way.

In the gospels, and Revelation. The Lamb of God conquers through:

- Sacrifice, Love, Truth and Faithful endurance

The church changes the world most when it looks most like Jesus

We are NOT called to:

- Panic, despair, idolise politics or withdraw in fear

We ARE called to:

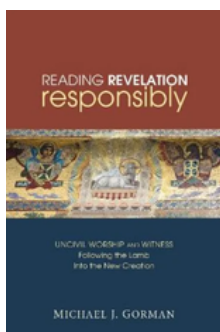
- Hopeful witness, creative nonviolent action, love of enemies, service to the vulnerable and patient faithful allegiance to King Jesus.,

Practical Kingdom Living looks like:

- Voting thoughtfully, praying for leaders, protecting the vulnerable, pursuing justice, having hard conversations graciously.

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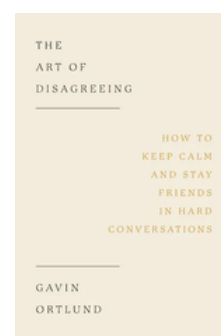
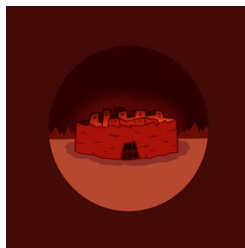
Resources mentioned in this mornings message:



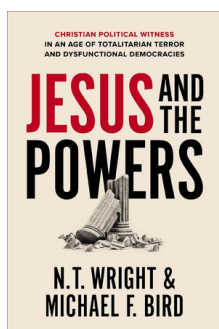
Reading Revelation
Responsibly



FREE Podcast Series
The City - Bible Project



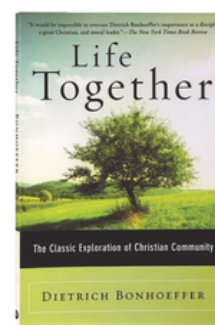
The Art of
Disagreeing



Jesus and the
Powers



Revelation for the
rest of us



Life
Together



Flourishing with Order

SMALL GROUP OUTLINE

CONNECT – *help people get comfortable*

Growing up, who were the people with whom you were not supposed to associate? What part of the city were you told not to go? What would happen if you had done either?

REVIEW

Watch Episode #4: Order



Read the key idea, verse, and passage. What insights did you take away from this week's scripture and message?

Key Idea God uses order and justice to help people flourish.

Key Verse *Micah 6:8*

Key Passages *Romans 13:1-7. Matthew 25:34-40.*

DISCUSS – talk through the content to gain understanding

- How does God use the institutions in your life (marriage, family, church, government) to help you flourish? How does it help other people flourish?
- Where do you see areas of injustice or disorder in our surrounding community? What would it take to address those issues?
- Within your job or school, are there areas of disorder or injustice that prevent human flourishing?
- What would the nightly news point out as the barriers to human flourishing in your surrounding community?
- What might be some personal reservations that prevent you from giving food or drink to someone who needs it?

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- What are some physical or sociological barriers that keep you away from those in need?
- How do you typically respond when someone who is homeless / destitute poor asks you for money or food? Have you ever had a bad experience in this scenario? A good experience?
- On a scale of 1-10, how hospitable are you? Why did you rate yourself at that number?
- How would your life change if you had a stranger living in your home for three weeks? Think about the emotional, physical, spiritual, and relational effects it would have.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE – taking time to listen to God and respond

Read: Psalm 4:1

Pray: Spend 1-2 minutes in quiet prayer, asking God to speak to you and listening to what God has to say to you.

Journal:

- Think back to the last time you interacted with someone who was hungry, thirsty, in need, sick, or in prison. Describe in detail how you responded.
- How would you have handled it differently if you had the same opportunity today?
- If the roles were reversed, how would you want the other person to react?
- How do you picture God responding when you come to him in need?
- Describe how it felt when God met one of your needs in mercy.
- In what part of your life are you currently feeling desperate to experience God's mercy?

Group Sharing:

- Reflecting on this exercise, what did you hear, see, or feel?
- What is God inviting you to look at in yourself?

CHALLENGE – *live it out in the coming week*

From the daily news, pray about your concern for suffering and injustice in the world. Ask God to show you ways to participate in making things right by offering your influence, time, spiritual gifts, and financial resources. Pay attention to the responsiveness of your heart as Jesus invites you to seek the good, protection, gain, and fair treatment of those around you.

PRAY – share requests with one another

Discuss your joys and challenges.
Commit to praying for one another.