

**MESSAGE NOTES**  
**Inquiring Minds Want to Know**  
***Living Under God's Authority***  
Pastor Brian Miller

**QUESTION 11:**

*"In Romans 13, it speaks of submission to the governing authorities. And in the 10 Commandments it says, 'Thou shalt not kill.' So what about someone who has been sentenced to death? How do we as Christians explain that?"*

1. God is the **SUPREME RULER** of His creation.

*"The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all." Psalm 103:19*

*"God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne." Psalm 47:8*

*"Thou shalt not kill." Exodus 20:13 KJV*

*"You shall not murder." Exodus 20:13*

2. God ordains that we should **SUBMIT** to our earthly rulers.

*"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves." Romans 13:1-2*

*"For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience." Romans 13:4-5*

*"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right." 1 Peter 2:13-14*

3. Human justice is **INCOMPLETE** without God's righteousness.

*"Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind." Genesis 9:6*

*"Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death." Exodus 21:12 ESV*

*"But never put a person to death on the testimony of only one witness. There must always be two or three witnesses." Deuteronomy 17:6 NLT*

*"Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." 2 Corinthians 13:1*

4. We must remember that **GOD'S GRACE** extends to all, even those we judge most harshly.

*"We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:41-43*

*Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more." John 8:10-11*

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3*

*\*All scripture in NIV unless specified*

#### **ACTION STEPS:**

1. Pray for your leaders this week – all of them!
2. Invite someone to church.