

Romans 13:1-7

“Servants”

July 3, 2016

The Church is a hospital for sinners. If we expect anything else, then we will be disappointed. However, we can expect that the church will place into leadership those who are respectable. They will have their imperfections and God asks us to live with those imperfections with grace and mercy so that we are God’s team working together. Of course this requires that all especially those in leadership be humble in the presence of God and each other.

Our nation is a hospital for sinners. If we expect anything else, then we will be disappointed. However, we can expect that our nation will place into leadership those who are respectable. How sad that we find ourselves voting for the lesser of two evils. How sad that we find ourselves facing corruption and scandals at various times in the highest offices of town, county, villiage, city, state and nation. Sometimes we even drive them to corruption by thinking and acting as if all politicians are corrupt. God asks us to treat others with love and respect.

The problem in the church and in the government is that we are all born with the sinful flesh. Some allow that sinful flesh to ruin their lives by doing things that expose them to condemnation. Sadly some people don’t forget or forgive. All allow that sinful flesh to interfere with their decisions and their actions. Our God

asks us to put the best construction on things. If we chose, we could see evil at every turn even when it is not there. Instead in God's undeserved grace and mercy, we remain aware that the influence of evil is in us and everyone else. By expecting the best in each other, we often will receive better than we deserve as one author tells it.

Our God is the God of order. The nature of His order is found in the summary of His Law. We are to sacrificially love God and each other. When we obey God's Law, then we humble ourselves and place God above us and place our neighbor as important as us. We become each other's servants. This is a good attitude for any politician to have in a democracy. They are to go into office to serve. When they expect or strive to be wealthy, then they are serving themselves. When they expect for everyone to exalt them, then they are serving themselves. Our nation is great because there were so many who serve us rather than serve themselves.

Yes, we are a great nation! We believe in the idea that we do not want to create an empire. The new Tarzan movie is based upon the idea that the King Leopold of Belgium wanted to create an empire in the Congo by enslaving the tribes to do his will. We are not perfect as the Indians and the Mexican will tell you. We are not perfect as the blacks whose ancestors were slaves will tell you. We try to be good to others as those who receive from us will tell you. We give food,

ideas and so much more to the world around us and to our own. We live in His undeserved grace and mercy because we are not perfect as those before us were not perfect.

We sometimes have a tough time living with our past and some think that we need to repay for the wrongs done by our ancestors. Others think that socialism is the answer to the problems in our society. Therefore we need to distribute the wealth and everyone share equally because the corruption of our nation caused some to be rich and some to be poor. Neither of those ideas will work because of our human sinfulness. This sinfulness is expressed in human greed. When some get some, they want more. They don't care if they are taking from others rather than working for what they possess.

God asks us to be content in every and all circumstances in life. We will always be the victim to someone or something in this life. Or some will assume that they are the victims. Our nation is great because we pick up our pieces as best we can and move on to the next challenge in life rather than dwell in the past as victims. We are Christians because we support and help each other as we face those next challenges. We are a great nation when we support and help each other as we face those next challenges. We are a great nation when we support and help other nations as they face their challenges.

I don't want to be known as a Christian nation ruled by God. Then the world will point to our failures and say we reflect Christ. I do want to be a nation that reflects the values that God's Law encourages us to follow. Likewise I want to be a humble nation that reflects God's undeserved grace and mercy. Amen