

PMC SERMON “LIVE IT OUT” GUIDE

Date: 15 Mar 2015

Text: Eph 6:5-9

Title: Authority in the Workplace

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Series: Shining Like Stars

[For Group Leaders: The following serves only as a guide. Please feel free to adapt according to the needs of your group.]

1. SERMON RECAP

(Visit pmc.org.sg to listen to the sermon and download a copy of the Powerpoint slides)

- a. Submission to authority is a command from God.
- b. Submission is part of the Christian life.
 - i. It is result of being filled with the Spirit (Eph.5:18-21)
 - ii. It is result of living a Christ-centered life (Eph.6:5-8)
- c. Servants to Masters:
 - i. Respect
 - ii. Integrity or wholeheartedness
 - iii. Conscientious
 - iv. Willing and cheerful
- d. Masters to Servants:
 - i. Do the same to them
 - ii. Stop your threatening
 - iii. God will judge unjust masters
- e. Dealing with difficult authority (see 1 Peter 2:18-24)
 - i. The call to submit to the authority is to demonstrate the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ even in the worst human circumstances.
 - ii. Our obedience to authority—even unjust authority—is for the purpose of bringing others to God.

2. LIVE IT OUT

- a. People usually give reasons and excuses not to submit to authority, especially when it does not make sense or align with their own objectives or values.
 - i. As a group, list down 5 common reasons or excuses for not submitting to authority.
 - ii. Share and discuss which of these reasons are biblically sound.
 - iii. How can we as a group covenant to be submissive to authority that God has placed over us? Fill in the blanks below:

"We submit to ALL authorities as an act of faith in God's sovereignty, trusting in His love and justice alone. We submit to ALL authorities, under ALL circumstances, except for the following reasons:

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- b. Break into smaller groups of 2-3:
 - i. Share a recent incident when you have criticized or complained against an authority figure – be it at work, school, home, or church.
 - ii. In the light of today's message, what is the Lord saying about your actions?
 - iii. If necessary, take some time to confess your rebellion against God (*who appointed all legitimate authorities*).
 - iv. **Commit with one another ONE thing you can do (or stop doing) to live out godly submission this week.**

3. **PRAY**

- a. Take a moment to reflect: How have I been responding to authority? E.g. to parents, teachers, supervisor/department head/boss ...
 - i. Have I practiced "selective submission"?
 - ii. Meditate on Eph 6.5-9
 - iii. As the Lord convicts: confess and repent before Him.
 - iv. Ask the Lord for grace, courage and wisdom to love and encourage the authority figures in your life.
- b. Pray for group members who might be struggling in their work or workplace (esp. on the issue of Authority). Ask them to share, and pray for them specifically.

4. **GOING DEEPER**

- a. Do you know of anyone who has lost the respect of his subordinates?
 - i. What has possibly gone wrong?
 - ii. How can we conduct ourselves so that others would willingly submit to our authority?
- b. Non-submission to authority is not always done openly. There is a thin line between sharing of views and lobbying the support of others to rebel against authority. Share your experiences and struggles in this area.