

Winter Park Christian Church: Pastor Doug Toller
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Law Enforcement Officers – Servants of God

January 9th & 10th, 2015

Romans 13:1-7

“Civil government is a means ordained by God for ruling and maintaining order in communities. ... In our fallen world these authorities are institutions of God’s ‘common grace’..., standing as a bulwark against anarchy and the dissolution of ordered society. ... Because civil government exists for the welfare of the whole society, God gives it the ‘power of the sword,’ the lawful use of force to administer just laws.”¹

❖ Three times in Romans 13:1-7, law enforcement is referred to as servants or ministers of God!

Romans 13:4,6

Why is law enforcement necessary?

❖ Human beings are lawless by nature!

Titus 2:13-14 “... our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.”

1 John 3:4 “Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.”

Romans 6:19 “... For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.”

❖ Peace and order in a society will not exist without individuals enforcing the law.

Who would want to be a law enforcement officer?

❖ The job is dangerous!

Ä The officer carries a gun, pepper spray, handcuffs, a bullet-proof vest, extra guns in the squad car – every contact with a person can be a potential danger.

Ä Annually, on average, ... 100-200 officers die in the line of duty; 300 commit suicide; 50,000 are assaulted; 14,000 are seriously injured in the line of duty.

❖ The job is often boring!

Ä The officer spends many hours driving, sitting, watching, and waiting.

❖ The job is most often thankless!

Ä Few people express appreciation to officers for doing their job. Most people are uncomfortable with police – even law abiding citizens!

Ä Most people want the officer to give them break ... a free pass!

📖 *James 2:8-12*

❖ The job is not high paying!

Ä “The average starting salary around the U.S. is between \$30,000 and \$40,000, ... The current median annual earnings for police officers is \$47,460, with the middle 50 percent earning between \$35,600 and \$59,880.”² ... This is the compensation officers receive for laying down their lives every day for our benefit!

❖ The job requires many extra hours of paper work and court appearances!

Ä An Officer’s frustration: a criminal is caught in the act of committing a crime but the case is thrown out of court on a technicality!

Ä Officers are always on the clock – they are protective on and off duty!

A OFFICERS are always on the clock – they are protective on and off duty!

Christians are commanded by God to honor and respect our law enforcement officers (*Romans 13:7*), and we are to pray for them.

📖 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Endnotes:

¹ Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

² "Police Salaries Across the U.S." *Criminal Justice Degrees Guide*. © 2016 Criminal Justice Degrees Guide .com.
<http://www.criminaljusticedegreesguide.com/library/police-salaries-across-the-u-s.html>. Web.

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