

Welcome to The Experience Community

We're so glad you're here!



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 9TH-10TH, 2019 // BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

RESPECT (ECCLESIASTES 8:1-4)

THE DIFFERENCE OF WISDOM

"...wisdom brightens his face." You can tell the difference in a person who lives in the Wisdom of God. They are respectful, law-abiding citizens who care.

- Those who live in wisdom also don't cause trouble for the authorities they find themselves under. Nor do they question the positions of authority.

GIVE TO CAESAR

The respect of authorities is a biblical theme. Jesus affirms this when he said, we should **"give to Caesar what is Caesar's."** We need to obey the laws of the land in which we live, pay taxes, and be peaceful with the authorities.

- This is because all authority is God's authority.** Any reasonable law and order comes from God's moral law.

LAW AND ORDER

Sound law and order in a society or government are not new inventions. **They are a discovery of what God set in motion.**

- Therefore, as Christians, **we live in God's wisdom by respecting our lawmakers** (no matter if they are Republican or Democrat). We must obey the laws and pay our taxes.

AUTHORITY (ECCLESIASTES 8:5-9)

EASY STREET

When we live a life of Wisdom, and obey the laws of the land, it typically goes well. Be a good citizen and you won't **"experience anything harmful."** This makes complete sense.

- But, those who live in Wisdom also know **how we act is not dependent on the government in which we live.**

A WISE HEART

We must rely on God's Wisdom to make decisions. Solomon says, **"a wise heart"** knows when to listen and respond. **Our actions should never be based on political affiliation or what the government says.**

- No politician or political party can predict the future, can control the universe, or rule over life and death. They think they can.

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

If no government or ruler has "authority over the wind" or over "life and death," Who does? We believe God does.

- We are not slaves to the government. Your political affiliation is not your god. Our loyalty is to an authority far beyond this world: Jesus.**

YOUR KINGDOM COME

Jesus taught us to pray for His Kingdom to come on earth, as it is in Heaven.

- Babylon/Daniel. Rome/Christians. Slavery/Abolitionists. Nazis/Bonhoeffer.
- When our government says it's ok to abuse the immigrant, or to abort the innocent, we need to fight for another Kingdom! Jesus is King.**

THE WICKED (ECCLESIASTES 8:10-13)

STANDARDS

God has to be our authority because the world is wicked. Solomon says we're so twisted we **"praise"** and celebrate those who do evil. We are inspired by those who are immoral, vain, and greedy.

- The worldly wisdom is that we are our own god. **When we don't worship Jesus, we inevitably worship ourselves.**

RELATIVE TRUTH

It can be tempting to make the world our authority, to be our own god. It was the original sin where Satan tells us, **"you will be like God."** It's nice to be in charge.

- If we don't have absolute truth, divine authority in our lives, we are lost.** Solomon tells us, "It will not go well with the wicked."

BROKENNESS

When we turn to ourselves for our authority it leads to **sexual brokenness**. It leads to **alcoholism**. It leads to **fear, resentment, lies, and discontent**.

- Yet, we have hope. **"It will go well with God-fearing people."** If we get off the throne, **Jesus can lead us.** It's hard to let go of our pride.

ENJOYMENT (ECCLESIASTES 8:14-17)

CONTENTMENT

We cannot enjoy or make sense of this life without God on the throne. This theme is abundantly clear in Ecclesiastes.

- When Jesus is leading our lives we have peace and contentment. We can actually enjoy ourselves. Our work can have meaning. All the chaos doesn't depress us.**

PURPOSE

Everyone searches for purpose. Yet, "not even the wisest people discover it." When Jesus is the King of our hearts, we find purpose!

- Finances become his. Our career is his. Our family is his. Our shame is his. Our identity is his. The cross was the throne that took it all. If we trust in it we will have peace, joy, and purpose.**

THE KING'S AUTHORITY

- We need authority in our lives. But worldly authority cannot be our god. **No political party will change the world.**
- Do you put a lot of thought and energy into worshipping the wrong things? Everything in life is futile if Jesus doesn't rule our lives.
- If Jesus is the King of our lives, then nothing else rules us.
- Have you surrendered everything to him?**
- There are a lot of things that can rule us: money, success, addictions, sports, hobbies, and even our schedules. It's exhausting serving a worldly master.**
- Are you content?**
- Who sits on the throne of your heart?**
- Do you call the shots in your life or do you daily turn your heart and mind over to God for His guidance?**
- Allow Jesus to be the authority of your life!** When we do, all of our everyday human concerns will be met (Mt. 6:33).

CURRENT EVENTS

ECC NEXT CLASS

NOV 11TH
6:30PM

What's your next step?

Find out on the app, website or at the connections corner!

ENOUGH

WINTER RETREAT
JAN 3-5, 2020

INTERNATIONAL Friendsgiving

NOV 22 EVIDENT 6:00PM

THE EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY IN YOUR HAND

Download the ECC app for free on your favorite app store for sermon notes, event updates and more!

FRIENDS GIVING

11/20 AT 6:30PM

Contact Us

LIFEGROUPS lifegroups@experienceccc.com	EMERGE (SPECIAL NEEDS) emerge@experienceccc.com	CELEBRATE RECOVERY cr@experienceccc.com
WORSHIP & PRODUCTION worship@experienceccc.com	EVIDENT (YOUNG ADULTS) evident@experienceccc.com	COUNSELING counseling@experienceccc.com
ECCO (NURSERY-5TH) ecco@experienceccc.com	HOSPITALITY hospitality@experienceccc.com	LA EXPERIENCIA (ESPAÑOL) laexperiencia @experienceccc.com
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