Citizens of the Day

Romans 13

1. List all of the authority figures in your life. Circle the one that you have the most difficulty respecting. Why is it difficult?

2. What kind of testimony do you have in the eyes of the world? At school? With your neighbors?

3. Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. Why is it important for a believer to have good citizenship?

4. There are two ways for you to live in regard to authority: in fear and without fear. According to verse 3, how can you ensure a peaceful life without fear of the government?

5. What are all of the different reasons (motivations) Paul gives to obey the government in verses 1-7?

6. Consider the Revolutionary war in the 1770s which established the independence of our nation from England. According to Romans 13:1-7, would you, as a Christian, be able to "revolt" against the government over you? Would you have fought in the war? Why or why not?

7. Suppose you had (or already have) your driver's license and you had to drive home late at night. You came to a stop sign and knowing that there was no other traffic or police car, you rolled through it at about 20 miles an hour. Do you think you would have sinned against God? Why or why not?

8. Verses 8 through 10 teach that love of others fulfills the law. Why is a New Testament understanding of the fulfillment of the Law important for this audience?

9. Verse nine summarizes a command given in Leviticus 19:18, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Does this passage teach us to love ourselves? How might someone wrongly interpret this verse?

10. In verse 14, Paul commands the Romans to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ." What does it mean to do this? What phrase could be parallel to this in verse 12?

11. What does it mean to "make no provision for the flesh?" In what situations do you find it most tempting to live by your flesh? What must you do to make sure that your fleshly desires are not gratified?

12. Write down one command from this chapter that you will work on this week. How do you plan to radically apply this command?