

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

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EP36

7 Signs of Good Government: Good Government Confronts Sin

FOR THE GROUP LEADER

These notes have been designed to disciple leaders in round the table small group discussions.

What is in *ITALICS* is meant to be read out loud.

Welcome to this week's Mustard Seed Leadership discussion. The current series is "7 Signs of Good Government"

STEP #1: ACCOUNTABILITY

Let's get started. The topic of discussion today is "Good Government Confronts Sin" But before we start on the new topic, we will usually hold

each other accountable about last week's action step.

Since this is the first in the series, let's go straight to the notes.

STEP #2: READ THE NOTES

Option 1: Let each person in the group take turns reading a section. (Each section is marked with a **READER #**). Go clockwise starting with the Group Leader, and highlight or underline what catches your attention.

Option 2: The leader reads all the sections.

Option 3: Watch the video.

https://youtu.be/oYIFNoTP_XA

READER 1

7 SIGNS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

Isaiah 9:7 (NIV 1984) “Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.”

*There is a link between good government and peace - where government grows, **SO DOES PEACE!***

Colossians 3:15 (NIV 1984) “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”

Peace and rulership go hand in hand!

WHAT DO I MEAN BY GOVERNMENT? *It simply means the way that we exercise the authority that God has given us.*

- *How do we exercise authority well?*
- *That's the focus of this series*

READER 2

You may recognize some of these signs of a lack of government in your life, marriage, family, ministry or business:

- 1. A lack of peace*
- 2. A lack of order*
- 3. A lack of respect*
- 4. A lack of discipline*
- 5. A lack of productivity*

*Let's focus on the first one - **A LACK OF PEACE***

As we saw from the scripture - when good government increases so does peace

***Illust:** Countries - good stable government, fairly elected with low corruption and you have a country at peace - corrupt governments and you have civil wars and economic crisis*

Good news is that we can grow in our ability to exercise good government

READER 3

The three main enemies I am facing:

1. Fear of conflict / people pleaser - it is the fear of facing conflict and possibly offending

people that has tended to hold me back from dealing with issues.

2. Lack of confidence - *personal insecurities have held me back when I should be stepping forward.*

3. Indifference - *not rising up and taking responsibility but rather giving away that responsibility has held me back.*

But there is *HOPE!*

- This is an area we can grow in and so let's take a look at the first of seven ways we can grow in government

READER 4

7 SIGNS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

#1: GOOD GOVERNMENT CONFRONTS SIN

Isaiah 57:21 (NIV 1984) *“There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”*

*In other words, where sin is allowed to reign,
peace vanishes*

*This is why a sign of good government is to
confront sin*

The opposite of confronting sin is ENABLING

- *that means that you see something is sinful and unhelpful in a person or situation*
- *And you are in a position to do something about it*
- *And instead of confronting it you **TOLERATE** it, **ALLOW** it, or **CONDONE** it.*

*Now the problem is no longer the sin but the leader - **you and me!***

Eg. Eli, the High Priest in Israel - failed to restrain his sons

1 Samuel 3:13 (NLT)

13 I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them.

He saw the problem

- *He was in a position to do something about it*
- *He **TOLERATED, ALLOWED** and **CONDONED** it*
- *He was an **ENABLER** instead of a **LEADER***
- *And so judgement instead of peace reigned in his household*

Illust. *I am a dad of two teenagers. Some of their behaviour is unacceptable:*

- *Disrespect for their mother or anyone for that matter*
- *Bad language*
- *Selfishness or unkindness*

*Felt God impress this upon me: **“I haven’t called you to be their best friend but their dad!”***

CHALLENGE: *Good government confronts sin instead of enabling it. So...*

- 1. Do an honest assessment of yourself, family, ministry, business - are you enabling sin?*
- 2. If so then it's time to repent - repentance is an invitation for God's intervention!*
- 3. Trust the Lord and begin to speak up - deep down you want respect more than popularity so speak up!*

Next week we look at the second sign of Good Government and so until then, may the Mustard Seeds of His Kingdom continue to grow inside you!

STEP #3: SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

*Now let's go around the group and take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. **What stood out to you and why?***

STEP #4: EVALUATION

*I am going to ask each of you in turn to evaluate yourself (From a 5 which is **EXCELLENT**, down*

to a 1 meaning **LOTS OF WORK NEEDED!**) on how well you are doing in the area of this topic and then share this with the group and why you chose this score.

STEP #5: ACTION

Lastly, let's go around the group and answer this question: What action step can you take to grow in the area of this topic by next week? Ask each member to share a practical action step and date of action. Make sure the Group Leader and the individual write them down for next week's accountability step.

CLOSING

A great way to close off is to pair up briefly for a moment of prayer. Pray for each other that you will succeed in your action steps. Thank everyone for coming and committing to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>

