

A Leader Blessed by God

Proverbs 20:28

Synopsis

In today's message we continue a short mini-series within our study of Proverbs focused on the theme of government according to God's design. This theme emerges regularly throughout Proverbs. Last week we discussed how "righteousness exalts a nation" out of Proverbs 14:34. Today we discuss what kind of governmental leaders God delights to bless, out of Proverbs 20:28. What we see is that leaders who govern from a posture of steadfast love and faithfulness, are blessed by God. In studying governmental leaders, we will also have a chance to consider our own leadership, and how we can align our leadership with God's design with greater efficacy.

Sermon Outline

Primary Proverb: *"Steadfast love and faithfulness preserve the king, and by steadfast love his throne is upheld."*

1. Exposition
 - a. *Steadfast love* describing God's covenant faithfulness, his eternal, pursuing, unwavering, and merciful love.
 - b. *Faithfulness* describing a firmness, commitment to God's Word, uncompromising and secure.
 - c. How steadfast love and faithfulness preserve the king
2. Application
 - a. Our ultimate hope is not in any kingdom or ruler of this world
 - b. Leaders are moral shepherds underneath the sovereign rule of God
 - c. When evaluating modern leadership, consider both the person and the policy
 - d. Consider your own leadership

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Warning to SG Leaders: We are discussing the topic of governance and politics of a nation. Tread wisely and carefully with your group. My counsel is when considering topics of government to drive the conversation locally and not nationally. Think local community leaders, alderman, and mayors. Not a requirement, but this may help the conversation.

1. **Observing the Text:** First, make sure to have your group spend time looking at the text, and observing the text without reflecting on the sermon. You want the group to get familiar with the text, and the words, and the flow of thought. Keep making observations until you feel

the group has a solid grasp of the entire text.

- a. Consider the following verses to supplement your discussion: Proverbs 3:3, Proverbs 20:26 (a reference to faithfulness), Proverbs 16:16, Proverbs 16:12
2. The word for “steadfast love” is the Hebrew term *hesed*. It is used in scripture to describes God’s covenant love of his people, as well as some human relationships that exemplify loyalty and steadfastness (Ruth to Naomi, and David to Jonathan).
 - a. Discuss Christ’s *hesed* love. What makes Christ’s love so unique among the many claims of love in this world (consider other Proverbs listed above in your discussion)
 - b. How would you go about evaluating if a governmental authority carried with them a sense of genuine love of those governed?
3. The word used for “faithfulness” connotes the idea of firmness, commitment to God’s Word, unwavering, and true.
 - a. Discuss Christ’s faithfulness. In what ways does Christ exemplify this term.
 - b. Discuss how governmental leaders are to be “faithful” (consider other Proverbs listed above in your discussion)
4. Consider the first application that “our ultimate hope is not in any kingdom or ruler of this world.” One thing we discussed underneath this heading was that God’s design of earthly government is limited in scope. In the sermon some examples were given, “They can’t manage all the mental illness. They can’t create a system where there is no poverty. They can’t change people’s hearts to desire the good and to stop doing evil...”
 - a. Have you seen a practical example in modern day where people expect government to be or do things that simply put, they are just not equipped or designed to do?
 - b. The Church is actually uniquely suited to step into many of the spaces that government is not suited to step into. What would it look like for churches to intentionally step into these spaces?
5. In this discussion, it is wise to think of our own leadership.
 - a. What leadership has God assigned you?
 - b. Would you describe your leadership as rooted in “steadfast love and faithfulness?”
 - c. What might it look like to correct any shortcomings in this area?

For Family Discipleship

This week is a great week to talk to your children about the upcoming midterm elections. We don’t need to explain everything to our children. But, you can use this text to explain that God’s good design is that governments honor Him, and that we get a chance to vote for the people that we think will do that best. Ask them, what qualities would you hope to see in somebody who was the leader of our city?

For Men and Women

Similar question, yet men and women will have unique answers to this that can be discussed in separate groups.

For Men: Politics can be an incredibly difficult topic to enter into, and for many to even think about. Are there any resources that have been particularly helpful for you as a man to think about politics from a wise and biblical perspective.

For Women: Politics can be an incredibly difficult topic to enter into, and for many to even think about. Are there any resources that have been particularly helpful for you as a woman to think about politics from a wise and biblical perspective.