

Second Hand Preacher

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 18, 2016

1 Timothy 2:1-8

John Cougar Melloncamp had a song that went, "I fight authority and authority always wins." He hits on a truism that the civil authority is usually going to get the better of us when we go against it. Some people have to learn the hard way. That is why we have police and a court system. We usually do better when we obey the rules and regulations put before us. Respecting authority makes us a good citizen.

St. Paul wants Timothy and his community to follow civil authority as well. They are to respect the king and quietly carry out their deeds that are pleasing to the Lord. Of course, when the law of God conflicts with civil authority, there may be some consequences; but Paul wants the Gentile turned Christians to be good citizens as well. Paul also is pretty stern in saying there is but one mediator, one way to go between God and the world. That is, of course, Jesus Christ. He is the ultimate authority and the Gentiles were to be subject to him.

We are citizens of our great nation. We are to be involved in the political process. We are to choose leaders to back our positions. We want to do no harm and feel represented by the establishment. We are to have respect for our civil leaders. We also need to believe in a higher purpose. Even though we live as citizens, we also must keep our eyes on the prize. As Catholics we are grounded in Christ. Jesus represents an ideal for us. We are to pattern our lives after him. To this we should never compromise. We should pray without being angry or having an argument. We need to be witnesses in this world to live true happiness in the next. Authority is to be respected and truth is to be lived.