



## Session 4 Homework: Confronting Demand Part 1 – In the World through Legislation and Law Enforcement

The Church is and must be the answer to the problem of trafficking. The answer lies not in governments, not in NGOs or non-profit organizations; it does not even lie with law enforcement, lawyers, social workers and other professionals who have been specifically trained to fight human trafficking. The answer to human trafficking lies in the Church because only the Church has the manpower to fight, the flexibility to work beyond jurisdictional lines, and the lack of restrictions to love every victim, regardless of his or her statelessness, problem past, age, or any other societal indicator.

However, this does not mean that the Church does not work with NGOs and non-profits, law enforcement officers and government officials, and the myriad other professionals also involved in this battle. It simply means that all of these other institutions and individuals are not, in and of themselves, the answer to the problem of trafficking. At the same time, they each may play a role.

The role of government is to govern, that is, to maintain order, to generate laws and policies, and to ensure that these laws are kept or enact punishment and discipline for going against the societal order. More simply stated, the role of the government is to shame and to punish evil, and to establish the best laws it can to protect individuals from harm.

In Romans 13:1-7, we read that God has purposed and anointed the government and ruling authorities with an important task – to “carr[y] out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer” (ESV). Paul also writes in verse 3, “For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval...” (ESV).

While this does not mean that the governing authorities are perfect, they do have a role in God’s perfect plan. Laws and the enforcement of them are a vital component of confronting the demand for sex trafficking and the facilitation of it. Studies have shown that men who buy sex fear legal repercussions – whether time in jail, public shaming, or having their name appear on the sex offenders’ registry. Not only do they fear such repercussions, but the vast majority of men interviewed said that if they thought they could actually get in trouble for buying sex, then they would STOP.

While these laws will never be perfect and will never fully succeed in eradicating all evil, they are a useful tool for confronting the demand for human trafficking. Without demand, there ceases to be a need for supply and the business of trafficking ceases to be lucrative for facilitators.

This week, we want you to read through the supplemental materials provided for you on the website. You will learn about the characteristics of sex buyers, existing laws and legal strategies for confronting demand, and more information about the various legal models used around the world for legislating on prostitution.

We have one word for prayerful consideration directed toward women taking this course: in the past, women in particular have said they have a difficult time learning about male sex buyers. Though sex

buyers come from all demographics—age, income, education, race, ethnicity, etc.—this does not mean that every man you know or meet is a sex buyer. The reality is also that they share certain other characteristics—their degrading views about women, their inability to empathize with others, their tendency towards violent behaviors, etc. Some women have said that they start to distrust all men, their spouses or boyfriends included. We encourage you to be in prayer as you delve into these materials and the materials for next session. If you are challenged, be in communication with the men in your life, particularly if you are married or in a relationship. Do not place guilt upon them simply for being men in areas where they have done nothing wrong.

We include this brief note not to scare you from learning about this issue, but merely to let you know that if this is challenging, you are not alone. The issue of sex trafficking is real, it is dark, and it is evil at its core because there are people who believe that it is acceptable to sell and purchase other human beings for sexual pleasure. The good news, however, is that the power of the Gospel can overcome any evil and will ultimately prevail in this fight as well.

This week, do the following:

- Read the supplemental materials:
  - Who Is the Demand?
  - Legal and Law Enforcement Strategies to Combat Demand in the United States
  - Four Legal Approaches to Prostitution and Human Trafficking
- Consider what you learned about what is going on in your own community with regards to law and legislation.
  - Do your own research on your state/local pending laws concerning demand for which you might be able to advocate, including state laws, municipal codes, and county provisions.
  - Decide as a group how you might be able to partner or encourage local law enforcement
- Read Romans 13:1,4 and 1 Timothy 2:1-2
  - Pray that God would establish righteous rules and governments
  - Find the names of various leaders in your community and pray that they would have willing hearts and favorable action towards the fight to end sex trafficking
  - Pray for protection for your own heart as you learn about these issues and that God would continue to guide you in how He wants you to participate in this work