

# THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

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## Romans 13:1-7

1. Where there is no **AUTHORITY**, there is **ANARCHY**. (Deuteronomy 12:8; Judges 17:6, 21:25; Jeremiah 11:8, 17:9; Genesis 6:5; Romans 3:10-12)
2. Three 'institutions' God ordained are **FAMILY**, **CHURCH**, and **GOVERNMENT**. (Family: Genesis 2:18, 1:28; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 6:1-4; Church: Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:19-22, 3:10-11; 1 Timothy 3:15; Romans 12:4-5; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 2:4-5; Hebrews 13:17; Government: Genesis 9:6; Exodus 9:16; Romans 9:17, 13:1; Daniel 2:21, 4:17; Jeremiah 27:5-7; John 19:11)
3. Resisting authority is resisting what God has **ORDAINED** - so it is resisting **GOD**. (Matthew 28:18; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Proverbs 8:15-16, 24:21)
4. We are not to **WITHHOLD** finances, honor, respect, or **PRAYER** because we do not '**LIKE**' the authorities. (Mark 12:13-17; Exodus 22:28; Acts 23:5; 1 Timothy 2:1-4)
5. We are not to obey the authorities when they require us to **DISOBEY GOD**. (Acts 4:19, 5:29; Exodus 1:16-17, 2:2; Hebrews 11:23; Esther 4:16; Daniel 3:16-18, 6:1-24; Matthew 6:33; John 14:15; Deuteronomy 28:1-2)



## ***Taking it further to help you THRIVE...***

THRIVE Groups are where life and growth take place. We don't want to just say "See *you next week*" as we leave each Sunday - we want to connect!

For more info on joining a THRIVE Group, visit [thrivekg.org/thrive-groups](https://thrivekg.org/thrive-groups).

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
1. What is the difference between authority and anarchy? How does Judges 21:25 (and 17:6) contribute to the understanding that government is from God and is important?
2. How have you struggled to yield to authority (of any kind)? What should we do when we struggle in this way?
3. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Do you think the church as a whole today does a good job of walking out these verses? What do we often hear and see instead of what these verses instruct us to say and do? How can we change this?
4. In Mark 12:17, Jesus said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Spend some time unpacking and discussing this statement (especially in light of Romans 13:1-7.)
5. Under point 5 we talked about some exceptions from scripture, times when we are not to obey the authorities. What were some of these examples? Can you think of a situation today where we as Christ-followers would be bound to not obey the government? What principles should guide our attitudes and actions?
6. Today's verses can be (and are) highly controversial, especially given the political divisions in our country. How can we as individuals practically obey these verses and contribute to a more civil landscape (showing honor, respect, etc.) while not failing to boldly hold forth and live out the truth of God's Word and His calling for us?