



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS – God and Government Community Group Study Guide Romans 13:1-7 – Week of November 13th, 2022

1. Submit to the Governing Authority*

We must remember that all authority belongs to God, and in turn God delegates His authority to be used in different roles that He has established. God has delegated His authority to the civil government, in order that the government may use that authority within God's purpose. Scripture prescribes that the government's purpose is to approve what is good, and restrain what is evil. God has even given the government the sword so that it may be used to control and punish evil. The government can and will act as the avenger of God, and in turn carry out God's wrath on evildoers. So as Christians, we should rightfully submit to the governing authority, as those authorities work within their God-given responsibilities.

2. To a Point*

However, our submission has limits. As Christians, we should never blindly submit to sinful humans. We should always be comparing those in authority to the prescriptions and restrictions laid out in scripture. When those in authority contradict God, then they no longer have the right to exercise that authority. If an authority demands we do something God forbids, or forbids us from doing something God demands, we must disobey the earthly authority. We will all have to give an account to God for what we did or did not do, and "I was just following orders" will not be an acceptable excuse.

3. Submit to King Jesus, always

Because all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus, and His reign will be eternal, then our submission to Jesus is ultimately what matters. Furthermore, the only real hope for peace and salvation is placing our belief in King Jesus.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

God has all authority, and He delegates His authority to humans for God's specific roles and purposes. We as Christians should submit ourselves to the government's authority as it works within the role that God has established it for.

Heart

We should both humbly submit to the government, while consistently holding them to the standard God has placed upon that authority.

Hands

When possible, live at peace with everyone, seeking to see justice flourish. Furthermore, we should actively hold fast in obedience to our true authority, King Jesus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptism Seminar

November 20th @ 1pm

Members Meeting

December 3 @ 5pm

Read Romans 13:1-7

1. From where does the government get its authority? What is the purpose of the government?
2. How and when should the government lose its authority?
3. What is justice? What are some common ways that we misunderstand and misuse justice?
4. Pastor Jan mentioned that justice and righteousness do not always require the truth. What does that mean? How do we properly understand and discern how to apply this principle?
5. Read Verse 5. What are the implications of this verse? What does Paul mean by saying we must be in subjection “for the sake of conscience?”
6. Where do we as Christians get our understanding of murder? How can we support capital punishment, and still fundamentally support life?
7. How do we determine when we should reject or accept the authority of the government? What does a practical application of this process look like?
8. How are we to honor those who are dishonorable? What limits or guidelines do we use apply verse 7? How do we apply this in day-to-day situations with family, parents, and co-workers?