

# ROMANS



# Romans 13:1-7

## Part 2 – Rendering to Caesar & God



# **Our 3 Questions**

## **1. What does the text say?**

- **Authorial intent to the intended audience.**

## **2. What does the text mean?**

- **The timeless theological truth.**

## **3. How does this apply today?**

- **What we ought to do with/because of this truth.**

# Romans 13:1-7

**<sup>1</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.**

**<sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.**

# Romans 13:1-7

<sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain.

# Romans 13:1-7

For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

# Romans 13:1-7

**<sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.**

# Road Map

- **Verses 1a & 7 – Paul’s exhortation**
- **Verses 1b-2 – Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> reason**
- **Verses 3-5 – Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup> reason**
  - **Why Paul places this text here.**
- **Verses 6-7 – Paul’s conclusion**
- **Our hesitation & the life of the saints**
- **Breaking the rule**
- **The rule**



# **Romans 13:1a & 7**

**<sup>1</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.**

**...**

**<sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.**

# Romans 13:1a & 7

<sup>1</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.

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Subjection or submission: Do what they tell you to do. → v. 7

Context: Matthew 22:15-21

Nero is the ruler

# **Romans 13:1b**

**For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.**

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**God has all authority**

**Every other authority owes itself to God**

# **Romans 13:1b**

**For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.**

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**God is sovereign over authorities:**

**Pharaoh – Ex. 9:16 & Romans 9:17**

**Assyria – Isaiah 10:1-19**

**Babylon – Jeremiah 25:1-14 & 27**

**Persia – 2 Chron. 36:22-23 & Ezra 1:1**

# Romans 13:2

**<sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.**

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**God is sovereign over authorities  
Opposing them opposes God's  
chosen servants.**

# 1 Samuel 24:1-15

Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. <sup>5</sup> And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. <sup>6</sup> He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed."

# Romans 13:2

**<sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.**

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**“resist” here is not equivalent with disagree, but closer to “oppose”.**

# Romans 13:3-4

<sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.



# Romans 13:3-4

- **“Judgment” in verse 2 is God’s wrath (sword) entrusted to local authorities.**
- **The purpose of local authority is to reward good and punish bad.**
  - **This is for the good of all.**
  - **Therefore DO GOOD (12:9)**
- **Two side points:**
  - **Moral duty of governments**
  - **Why Paul says this here**

# Romans 13:5

<sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

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Paul's the two reasons for submission"

1. Avoid wrath

- God gave them the sword

2. For the sake of conscience

- God has them in place

# Romans 13:6

**<sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.**

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- Taxes are not a symbol of the usurping of God's authority over God's people.**
- As appointed servants that dedicate their time to God's purpose, it is fitting to pay them.**

# Romans 13:7

**<sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.**

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**Paul doubles back to reiterate with detail what is meant by living in subjection to local authorities.**

# **Our Internal Response**

**Wait a minute Paul...**

**<sup>3</sup> 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**

**This isn't always true.**

# Pause

**We must stop to consider how we get to truth.**

- **Scripture interprets Scripture**
- **Prescriptive vs. Descriptive texts**
- **The word transforms us ...**
- **Experience doesn't override Scripture**

# Paul knows this

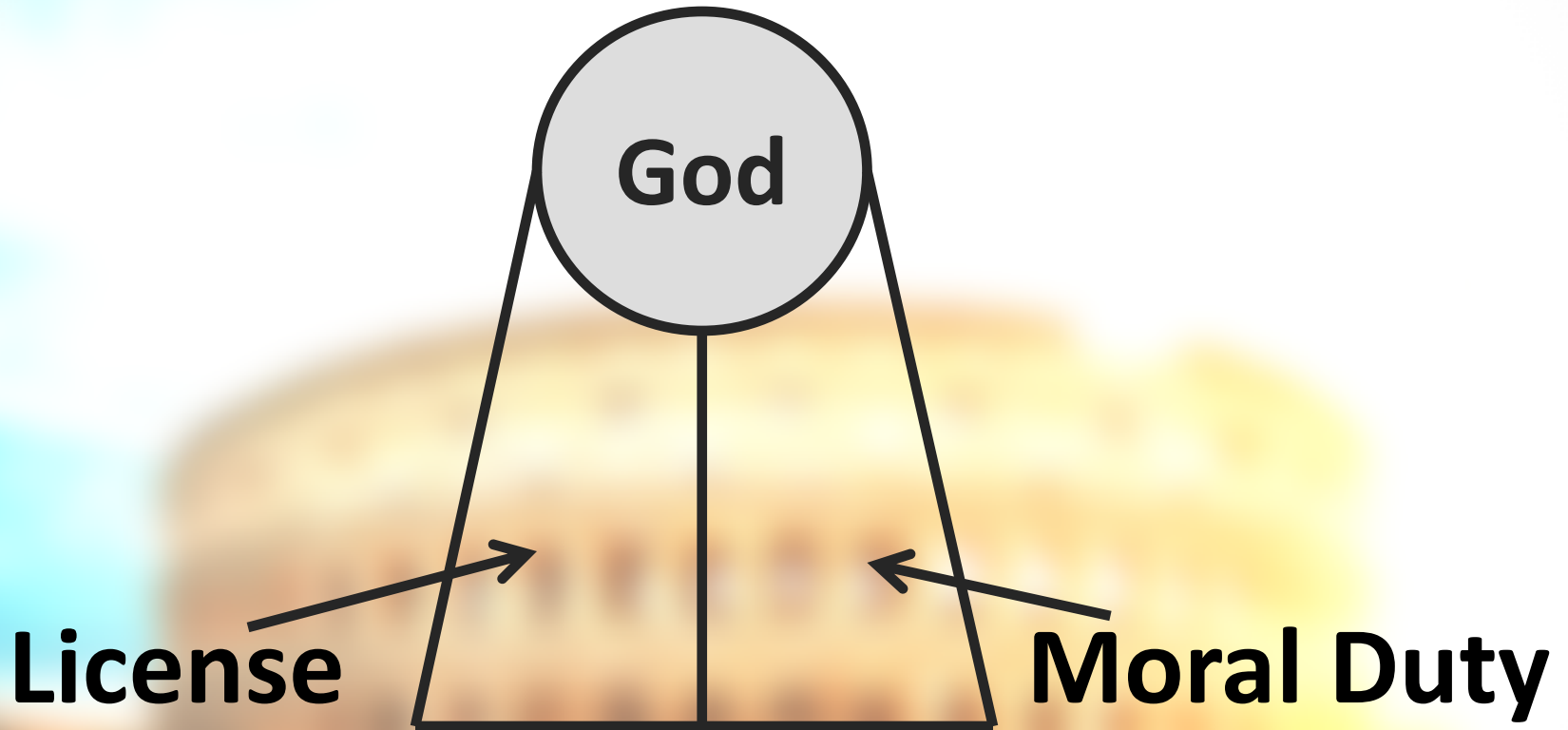
- **Jesus under Pontus**
- **Stephen under Paul**
- **Paul under Rome**
- **All early church leadership**
- **Paul writes in Romans 8:35-36**
- **Jesus in Luke 21:10-19**
- **Peter in 1 Peter 2:13-25 & 3:13-17**

# **Texts that create tension**

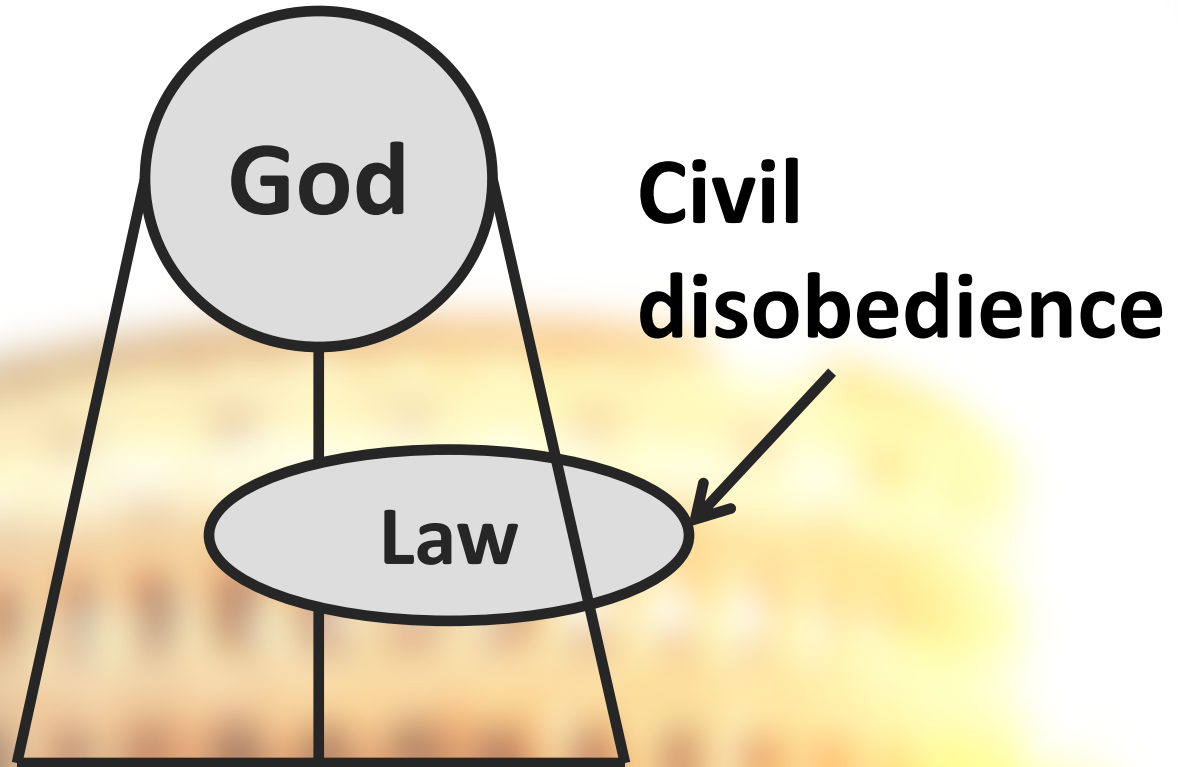
- **Acts 5:29 – obey God, not man**
- **Exodus 1:15-20 – rebellion rewarded**
- **Daniel 3:8-30 – Hananiah (Shadrach),  
Mishael (Meshack), & Azariah  
(Abednego) in the fire**
- **Daniel 6:1-23 – Daniel and lions**
- **Revelation 13 – Beasts w/authority**



# The exception to the Rule



# The exception to the Rule



# Why not give caveats

- Paul is giving the rule
- There is a hierarchy of moral duty
  - Matthew 23:23-24
- The text does not always give the exception with the rule
- Consider the mission

# The rule

**In view of God's mercies, as an act of worship, (12:1-2); submit to local authorities, pay taxes, and show respect and honor where it is due (13:1-7).**

**Or**

**Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and God what is God's. (Matt. 22:15-22)**

# Questions

**Did anything jump out to you from the text or the sermon?**

**Were you offended by the text or the sermon?**

**How do you do with submission and authority in general?**

**Do you tend to think that respect should be earned or that it is given because of position?**

**How would you respond to someone using this text to ask you to endorse an unjust law that doesn't cause you to personally sin?**

**How would you respond to someone using this text to ask you to submit to an unjust law that doesn't cause you to personally sin?**

**If the duty of all government is to reward what is good and punish what is bad, what is the implication for Christians within a democratic republic, where voting informs laws?**