



COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

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**Romans 13:1-7: Obeying the Government**

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*“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”  
(Judges 17:6)*

*“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed;  
for in the image of God has God made mankind.” (Genesis 9:6)*

*... that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and  
gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of  
people. (Daniel 4:17)*

So Christian how should you live?

We have already heard earlier from Romans 12 that we should be servants...

*In view of all the mercy you have received from Jesus...*

*Be devoted to one another...*

*Share with the Lord's people...practice hospitality...*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn...*

*Live in harmony with one another.*

*...live at peace with everyone... (Romans 12)*

Now in chapter 13, he is going to address how we as believers should interact with God ordained government...

**13:1-2**

This passage grates against every fiber of my being. (One of our Honest Elders)

Christians have an obligation to obey all authorities: kings, presidents, policemen, judges, schoolteachers, parents, bosses...

The Lord is saying, “Yeah, I know everything. I am sovereign over everything. I know who is in office. I know who teaches your math class. I know the policeman who pulled you over after work when the baby was crying. I’m after something in you. Are you going to trust me that I know what I am doing and obey those I have put in authority over you?”

### 13:3-5

1. Do right and you will be commended!
2. Do wrong – then keep in mind that God gave the authorities the sword for a reason!
3. It is a matter of conscience – you know deep inside obedience is the right thing to do.

*“But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless? As surely as the LORD lives,” he said, “the LORD himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let’s go.””*  
*(1 Samuel 26:9–11)*

*“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above...”* (John 19:10–11)



So when can we disobey the state/the government?

1. When it calls us to disobey a commandment of God.

*“Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”” (Acts 4:18–20)*

2. When it calls us to do something unethical or against one’s conscience.

### **13:6-7**

Who are we to honor, respect, and obey?

1. The Government/Kings/Authorities
2. Church Leaders

*“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.” (1 Timothy 5:17)*

*“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” (Hebrews 13:17)*

*“Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. “Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard this. (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.) At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out. Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, he said, “Listen to my words: “When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. With him I speak*

*against my servant Moses?” The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them. When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam’s skin was leprous—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease, and he said to Moses, “Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother’s womb with its flesh half eaten away.” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “Please, God, heal her!”” (Numbers 12:1–13)*

### 3. Boss

*“Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.” (Ephesians 6:6–8)*

### 4. Parents

*Honor your father and your mother... (Exodus 20:12)*

### 5. Older Persons

*Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. (Leviticus 19:32)*

### 6. God

*How do we honor God? Obeying His commands, trusting Him, thanking Him for all He is, trusting Him in trials?*

## **Home Groups Questions:**

1. Reread Romans 13:1-7.
2. Compare with 1 Peter 2:3-17
3. What is hard to obey in this passage? What is easy?
4. When have you personally found it hard to obey this in your past?
5. What grade would you give yourself (A-F) at obeying Romans 13:1-7?
6. What would have to happen to improve that grade?
7. What are potential things that can trip you up in improving?