

# Submission to Human Authority from God's Perspective

Text: [Romans 13:1-5](#)

Date: April 14, 2024

## [Psalm 2](#) (ESV)

- <sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
- <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
- <sup>3</sup> “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”
- <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
- <sup>5</sup> Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying,
- <sup>6</sup> “As for me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”
- <sup>7</sup> I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.
- <sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.
- <sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”
- <sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- <sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- <sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

## [Romans 13:1-5](#) (ESV)

- <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.
- <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.

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

## 1. Government is established by God.

### [Romans 13:1b](#) (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> ... For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

### [Psalm 62:11](#) (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God...

### [Ephesians 2:1-2](#) (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

<sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

### [1 John 5:19](#) (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> ... the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

### [Luke 4:5-6](#) (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> And the devil took (Jesus) up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time,

<sup>6</sup> and said to Him, "To You I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.

2. Rebellion against government is rebellion against what God has established.

[Romans 13:2a](#) (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed...

3. When anyone rebels they will be punished.

[Romans 13:2b](#) (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> ... and those who resist will incur judgment.

[Matthew 26:52–53](#) (ESV)

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to (Peter), “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

<sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels?

4. Government helps restrain evil.

[Romans 13:3a](#) (ESV)

<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?

[Genesis 2:17](#) (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> “... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

[Romans 2:14–15](#) (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.

<sup>15</sup> They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them...

[Romans 1:18–19](#) (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

<sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

5. Government encourages good.

[Romans 13:3b–4a](#) (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> ... Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

<sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good.

6. Government has been given the authority to punish disobedience by God.

[Romans 13:4b](#) (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> ... 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.

[Genesis 9:6](#) (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in His own image."

7. Government should be obeyed the the sake of our conscience.

### [Romans 13:5](#) (ESV)

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

### [1 Peter 2:13–15](#) (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,

<sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by Him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

<sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

## **Believers are submissive people.**

## **Pray for those in leadership.**

### [1 Timothy 2:1–4](#) (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

<sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

<sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,

<sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

## **Follow the example of Jesus.**

### [1 Peter 2:17–25](#) (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

<sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

<sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

<sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

<sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps.

<sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth.

<sup>23</sup> When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly.

<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

<sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.