



Discussion Guide

November 2, 2025

Romans 13:1-7

¹ Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Read Romans 13:1-5

1. Why is Paul so firm in his command to submit to governing authorities?
2. Are there times when Christians should not obey human governments? How can we discern when to submit and when to resist?
3. What role does conscience play in our response to authority?
4. How can we apply this passage to our role as Christians within the United States today?

Read Romans 13:6-7

4. How can honoring government authorities be an expression of honoring God?
5. What are the implications of verse 7 for how we handle taxes, financial obligations, and civil respect?
6. How might this passage challenge our attitudes toward government in our current culture?