



WELCOME What two traits do you most admire in leaders?

WORSHIP “Holy Forever” – Chris Tomlin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkHgxCemCRk>

WORD [*Romans 13*](#)

1. What stood out to you in the message and why?
2. **Read Romans 13:1-4.** What is the relationship between God and civil authority?
3. What is the historical context of Paul’s instruction to Christians in Rome regarding taxes and their obligation to authorities? (Pastor Bryan reminded us in Chapter 13, Paul is preaching to the ‘ideal’— a decent government (lawful and legitimate) that deserves and demands our submission.)
4. **Read verses 5-7.** How might our attitude towards those who govern or are in authority reflect our witness as Christians? How does it affect our conscience before God?
5. **Read verses 8-10.** What is Paul saying about the importance of love, truth and fulfilling the Law? What stood out to you as Pastor Bryan discussed love, honor, and submission to those in authority?
6. **Read verses 11-14.** In this section, how does Paul encourage us to behave with the context of eternity in mind?

Though Paul began with governing authorities, Pastor Bryan suggested that Paul was also diagnosing the heart of the people (i.e., if there is evidence of a rebellious, un-spirit-filled attitude towards (legitimate and lawful) governing authorities, then there is evidence of rebellion against God’s authority, as well).

7. How does Paul’s wisdom/teaching personally remind us to consider the following when we are tempted to act with a rebellious heart/attitude: (1) the physical consequences we might have to endure, (2) our conscience before God, (3) our witness in the community and (4) potency for the Kingdom of Heaven?

WITNESS Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be sensitive in showing respect, love, and honor (in speech and conduct) to those in authority in your life as a witness to Christ in you.