



THE BOOK OF  
**ROMANS**

## Romans 13:1-7 (MSG)

Be a good citizen. All governments are under God. Insofar as there is peace and order, it's God's order. So live responsibly as a citizen. If you're irresponsible to the state, then you're irresponsible with God, and God will hold you responsible. Duly constituted authorities are only a threat if you're trying to get by with something. Decent citizens should have nothing to fear. The government working to your advantage.

## Romans 13:1-7 (MSG)

But if you're breaking the rules right and left, watch out. The police aren't there just to be admired in their uniforms. God also has an interest in keeping order, and he uses them to do it. That's why you must live responsibly - not just to avoid punishment but also because it's the right way to live. That's also why you pay taxes - so that an orderly way of life can be maintained. Fulfill your obligations as a citizen. Pay your taxes, pay your bills, respect your leaders.

# God has established all authority.

- Nothing happens that God didn't see coming or allow to happen.
- This has been true since the beginning of time, from creation to today.
- Job

## Job 1:12 (NIV)

The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

# God has established all authority.

- God even gave Satan authority at this time to test Job's faithfulness
- Do you believe that God is in control?
- We can rest in the truth that God is in control

# God has established all authority.

- Esther
- Daniel
- Jesus
- Apostles/Early Church

# We must respect all authority.

- President, Congressmen, Governor, Police, Mayors, etc...
- Paul says "respect your leaders..."
- Jesus Confirms this



## Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

## Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)

But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

## Romans 13:8-14 (MSG)

Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. The law code - don't sleep with another person's spouse, don't take someone's life, don't take what isn't yours, don't always be wanting what you don't have, and any other "don't" you can think of - finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself. You can't go wrong when you love others.

## Romans 13:8-14 (MSG)

When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love. But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed.

## Romans 13:8-14 (MSG)

We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

# Love your neighbor as yourself

- This is not just a commandment from Jesus himself, but it actually fulfills the law (V.8)
- Love wins more people than hate
- I'm not saying become the person's best friend, but be a good neighbor.

# Don't be lazy

- Our lives are finite
- Why wait until later to be the "hands and feet of Jesus"
- Why waste time with the "things of the flesh" and ignore what God has already provided
- Psalm 78


# Don't be lazy

- "Be up and about"
- If you are lazy, you are an easy target to fall into the lusts of the flesh.
- You have neighbors out there who need to hear the message of Jesus



# Recap

1. God has established ALL authority.
2. We must respect ALL authority.
3. Love your neighbor as yourself.
4. Don't be lazy



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