

Paul's Letter to the
Romans

Ch. 13:1-2



ANSWER 3 IMPORTANT QUESTION.



1. Are we really to submit to our government (authority)?
2. Why?
3. Is that submission all encompassing? (in everything?!)

ROMANS 13:1-2



1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

WHY INCLUDE A SECTION LIKE THIS?



- ✓ High taxes in Rome and in the Empire.
- ✓ A desire for the Christian to distance himself from earthly authority.
- ✓ Take Phil. 3:20 literally, "For our citizenship is in heaven."
- ✓ Could be Christian Jewish zealots who refused to recognize ANY government except Israel's.
- ✓ Times today are not so different than we might think!

ROMANS 13:1



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- ✓ Means: “To cause to be in a submissive relationship, to subject, to subordinate” BDAG
- ✓ “Every Person”—all of us are to do this.
- ✓ Imperative! You **MUST** do this as a Christian.

ROMANS 13:1



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- ✓ Federal, state and local governing bodies set over you.
- ✓ The laws and the people who enforce those laws.
- ✓ Christians are to allow themselves to be placed under the governing authorities set over us.



To be a good Christians is to be a good citizen.

WHY ARE WE TO SUBMIT TO OUR GOVERNING AUTHORITIES?



“....For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”

God put them there!

GENESIS 9:6



“Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God He made man.

PSALM 103:19

“The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.”



“This means that no governing authority exists apart from God’s will and determination...no political power is attained apart from the sovereign will of God.” Thomas R. Schreiner



“From a human perspective, rulers come to power through force or heredity or popular choice. But the “transformed mind” [The Christian] recognizes behind every such process is the hand of God.” Douglas Moo.

1 SAM. 2:6-8



“The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.
“The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. “He raises
the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap To make
them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the
earth are the LORD’S, And He set the world on them.

REVELATION 13:5-7

5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.



JOHN 19:9-11



“And he [Pilate] entered into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have **authority** to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?” Jesus answered, “You would have **no authority** over Me, unless it had been **given you from above**; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

ARE WE TO DO NOTHING!?



- ✓ It's ok to use the means provided by our government (and thus the Lord) to change the laws of our country that are unbiblical—nothing wrong with that.
- ✓ But remember your FIRST priority—the Gospel!

ROMANS 13:1

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- ✓ This text is NOT telling us that we need to OBEY everything the government decrees. It's telling us we must be subject to the government. There is a difference. We are to place ourselves under the authority of those placed over us. We are to be good citizens, observing the laws of our land, doing good, being good but **our first allegiance is to the Lord** and where government deviates we must not follow, we cannot follow.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES



Daniel 1:1-15

Dan. 3:1-18ff

Dan 6:7-15

Ex. 1:17-21 “But the midwives feared god, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.....So God was good to the midwives...because the midwives feared God, he established households for them.”

Acts 4:19 “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge.”

Acts 5:29 “We must obey God rather than men.”

DON'T BE ARROGANT ABOUT IT



- Be respectful toward them. Treat them with reverence.
- Have a humble resolve not a haughty pride.

BE IN SUBJECTION TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OVER YOU.



- ✓ Christian—be a good citizen.
- ✓ Obey the laws
- ✓ Follow the rules
- ✓ Be subservient to those placed over you.
- ✓ Local, federal and all who are in authority over you.
- ✓ Why?
- ✓ God has placed them there.

IS THAT AUTHORITY ABSOLUTE?



- ✓ No.
- ✓ It stops at the shoreline of God's Word.
- ✓ "We must obey God rather than man."
- ✓ But with respect and reverence, not pride and arrogance.

ACTS 23:1-5



“Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, “Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day.” The high priest Ananias commanded those standing beside him to strike him on the mouth. Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to try me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law order me to be struck?” But the bystanders said, “Do you revile God’s high priest?” And Paul said, “I was not aware, brethren, that he was high priest; for it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK EVIL OF A RULER OF YOUR PEOPLE.’ ”

1 PETER 2:13-17

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.”



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