

Believers Together: Discovering the Word – October 26, 2022

Submission to the Authorities—Romans 13:1–7

Topics: Authority, God's Will, Government, Law, Submission

Open It

1. What irritates you most about our government?

Romans 13:1–7 (ESV)

¹Let 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.

²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

³For 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,

⁴for 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.

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

⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Explore It

2. How is the establishment of any government related to God? (13:1)
3. What consequences will those who rebel against the government bring upon themselves? (13:2)
4. What should a Christian do to maintain a good relationship with the government? (13:3–4)
5. For what reason are government officials in power? (13:4)
6. What motivation does the Christian have to submit to the government? (13:5)
7. How should a Christian respond to the tax laws and requirements of the government? (13:6–7)
8. In addition to tax revenues, what does a Christian owe to his or her government? (13:7)

Get It

9. Under what circumstances should Christians disobey the clear commands of government authorities?
10. What positive support should Christians give to government leaders?

Apply It

11. Which government official could you write or talk to this week and express your concerns?