

Submit to Authorities 2022-09-18

Romans 13:1-2

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

Romans 13:1-7, longest New Testament passage dealing with Christians and government.

- Apply to various forms of government. Bible does not mandate one type over another.
- All governments (good/bad heathen/God-fear) given power/authority by sovereign God.
 - Argument that God ordains institution not individual ruler is unbiblical.
Jeremiah 27:6, John 19:10-11, Revelation 13:5-7

Romans 13:1-7 is not how to deal with rebel gov but the attitude/conduct of rebel Christians who do not submit to civil authority operating within God-given parameters.

Romans 13:1-4; 12:9

• submit to God by submit/cooperate with authority over us whenever possible. God's purpose in government = peace/order in society by rewarding/protecting the good/law-abiding and punishing evil/law-breakers so no anarchy, mob rule, vigilante justice.

- Due to sin, those in authority often misuse authority for own benefit.
- Corrupt governments punish law-abiding and reward scoundrels keep them in power.
 - Many actions/policies contradict Christian values, so we are tempted see government as God's opponent/enemy not His ordained servant/instrument.
 - If disagree with government in any way, we think only option is total defiance.
- Bible condones/promotes civil disobedience in certain cases.
- Not submit if government forbids what God requires or requires what God forbids.
- If can't obey, demonstrate with submissive spirit.....Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Esther.

2 reasons submit to government: avoid punishment and heed own conscience. Romans 13:5-7

- Pay tax and give proper respect to government officials is part of submitting to their authority.
 - pay taxes even if disagree way funds are spent.....Nero Roman emperor.
 - Office worthy of respect but honor only those who deserve it.

Respectfully confront official who promote evil policies. Romans 12:14, 17, Titus 3:1-2

- Check self, Don't act merely out of selfish benefit with belligerence, violence. Jesus must be Lord in all things including political positions.

- Christians should shape/prioritize political convictions/actions by Word.
 - Abortion/homosexuality are moral issues not political issues.

Must be responsible Christians and responsible citizens. 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Proverbs 29:2, 21:1, Matthew 5:14-16

- Be informed and VOTE for people/issues best uphold Christian values.
 - Neither party thoroughly biblical. mixture of good/evil in both parties.
- pray for country and God's purposes triumph over evil persons plans.
- Engage with culture, not withdraw in despair but reach out/show Christian love.
 - persuasively explain your ethical/moral convictions especially to children/grandchildren....or they embrace world beliefs/views.

1st citizens of heaven with mandate to magnify Jesus Christ on earth, including government.

- submit to God by submit/cooperate with authority over us whenever possible.
 - even under most hostile forms of government, gospel bears fruit. Nero
- Our hope is in God and gospel, not government officials or political power.
 - All earthly governments temporary — only Jesus Christ's reign is eternal.