

THE GOSPEL IMPACTS OUR VIEW OF AUTHORITY

ROMANS 13:1-7

9/21/25

FIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT AUTHORITY FOR BELIEVERS

I. HOW SHOULD GOSPEL-MINDED CHRISTIANS APPROACH AUTHORITY?

Romans 13:1a - "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities."

- **We are to be in Subjection to authority**
 1. This is a command with no caveat

II. WHY SHOULD WE BE IN SUBJECTION?

Romans 13:1b - "For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

- God appoints authorities

Daniel 2:21 - "He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."

Daniel 4:17b - "...to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men."

1. This tells us...God is supreme
2. This tells us...God is in control

III. WHAT IF LEADERS ARE BAD?

Romans 13:2 - "Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment."

- We always obey and only sometimes disobey
 1. How God uses civil obedience
 - * Mary & Joseph, Jesus & Rome, Nehemiah & Artaxerxes, Jeremiah 29:7
 2. How God uses civil disobedience
 - * Daniel and his friends, Jewish Midwives, Peter & John

IV. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORITIES?

Romans 13:3-4 - "For 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."

- Authorities are to do good and serve God (ideally)

V. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE?

Romans 13:5-7 - "Therefore 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."

- Give what is owed...to whom it is owed
 1. Eternal honor is reserved for God

*Revelation 5:13 - "And I heard **every creature** in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing **and honor** and glory and might **forever and ever!**'"*

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. How does seeing authorities as "appointed by God" affect the way we view them... even authorities that we do not agree with or like?
3. How does a lack of submission to authority reveal a lack of trust in God's sovereignty? How does knowing God is sovereign over all and the supreme authority give you confidence to submit?
4. What are some ways that you struggle to be subject to human authorities (ie, boss, HOA, government officials, etc.)? How does a passage like this aid you in being subject to these authorities?
5. How should Christians respond when governments fail to live up to God's standard? What should our motivation be in civil disobedience?
6. How does prayer play a key role in how we are subject to authorities?

TAKE SOME TIME AND PRAY FOR VARIOUS AUTHORITIES IN OUR WORLD

- Governing authorities (President, Senators, Governors, Mayor, Community leaders)
 - Church leaders
 - Police, Military, other First Responders
 - Your boss, your husband, teachers
7. What is one thing from the message or group this week that you want to live out? How can the group help you with that?