



Faithful Citizens Under God's Authority

Romans 13:1-7

Willis Jones had a phrase he used whenever he saw something in the culture that simply didn't make sense. He would pause and say, "My, my, my..."— and in those three words you could hear confusion, concern, and disbelief.

If we're honest, many believers feel that way today. Our nation feels increasingly divided, every election cycle seems exhausting, social media amplifies outrage, and trust in leaders continues to erode. Some people withdraw, others rage, and many quietly fear what the future holds.

In that climate it's easy for our thinking to shift toward "us versus them" and to start asking the question: *How do we win?* But for the church, that is the wrong question. The better question is: **How does God win?**

Key Thought:

Because God establishes governing authorities, believers honor and submit to them as an act of obedience to Him.

I. RECOGNIZE GOD'S SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY (vs. 1-2)

Our response to government ultimately reveals what we believe about God's sovereignty.

II. UNDERSTAND GOVERNMENT'S GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE (vs. 3-4)

God established government to restrain evil and promote civil order in a fallen world.



III. LIVE WITH A CONSCIENCE ANCHORED IN GOD (v. 5)

Christian submission flows from a conscience shaped by allegiance to Christ.

IV. PRACTICE FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP IN EVERYDAY LIFE (vs. 6–7)

Faithful citizenship is a visible expression of faithful discipleship.

HOW DOES GOD WIN?

Danny Akin once said: “Independence Day for the Christian is not marked by a flag. It is Easter — marked by a cross and an empty tomb.”

The church does not exist to win political battles. The church exists to bear witness to a greater King.

Who is Lord of your life?