

Book Study #21

ROMANS

Rom. 13:1-7 – Submission to Authorities

Before We Begin...check the original map...



1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. 6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

a16 Or willing to do menial work b19 Deut. 32:35 c20 Prov. 25:21, 22

Let's get in gear...

If you could hold any government position (elected or not; local, state or national), what would it be? Why?

Exploration... Discovery... Revelation...



1. How should Christians relate to government?

vs. 1

vs. 3

vs. 5

vs. 7

2. What reasons does Paul give in support of this position?

vs. 1

vs. 2

vs. 4

vs. 5

vs. 6

3. **Topical Study:** In your own words, what do these passages tell us about the Christian's relationship to human government?

Mark 12:17

Titus 3:1

1 Peter 2: 13-17

Acts 5:29

Hebrews 11:31

4. How do verses 4-5 imply a limit on our obedience to human government? (see also Acts 5:29)

5. Why must we pay taxes (v. 6)?

6. What else do we "owe" our government officials and civil servants? (v. 7)

What do you think? Some "food" for thought...

- *Why is rebellion against the government such a serious matter? What are its consequences?*
- *Case Study: An organization which promotes civil disobedience to prevent abortions, is organizing a rally in your city. You are on the committee which is responsible for recommending whether church members should participate. What do you recommend?*

As we complete this part of the Journey...

Take time just now to consider your life in the light of the book of Romans... "living sacrifice" among others, is one of the phrases/words that cause us to think about the direction we have taken in our Christian walk. Perhaps now it is time to reconsider...to take God's word at face value and become more like the Christ whose name we profess.

A prayer for your journey... Note that this prayer has two parts: The first is for preparation and the second is for a demonstration of your faith.

"As I walk through this coming week, help me prepare for my journey by reading my Bible more regularly, seeking help as I need it from my Christian friends and focusing on the needs of others instead of myself.

Help me to demonstrate my faith by stepping boldly into the unknown, untried, and untested areas of my life. I pray in the name of Jesus"

-Amen

