

Sermon Questions

The Christian Patriot—God's Way
Romans 13:1–7
Pastor Jeff Hinds

CONNECT:

- Should Christians get involved in politics? Why or why not?

GROW:

- Read Romans 13:1-7. Based on our sermon, how would you define submission? What does it look like with respect to governing authorities?
- How can we, as Christians, walk the fine line between respecting authority yet disagreeing? What actions can we take? What should be our main motivator?
- If/when you engage in political discussion, is it your point you are trying to make or Christ's? How can you pray for awareness?
- Does remembering that God allows our governing authorities to rule over us change your perspective? In what way?
- How does engaging in demeaning talk about our governing authorities (social media, workplace, around the family table) hurt our witness for Christ?

GO:

- In our political climate, have you found yourself (now or in the past) treating our government officials with disrespect? Spend time this week asking God to point it out.

Sermon Notes

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1. God's people work to be in submission to one's government (Romans 13:1–7). This includes:
 - a. Doing "good" towards one's government (verse 3)
 - b. Being in obedience to governmental laws (vs 1,5)
 - c. Honestly paying due taxes to one's government (vs 6,7; Matthew 22:20–21)
2. God's people need to work at showing honor towards politicians and political views not our own. Submission would not include mean spirited, disrespectful, and the villainizing of views not one's own. We should pray for changes, work for changes, vote for changes, and even lobby (with respect) for changes. We should be the salt and light (Matthew 5:13–16), however we need to be careful not to become so jaded, so mean-spirited, and so angry that our words, posts, and actions dishonor God (Romans 13:1–7).
3. God's people are to disobey one's government in areas that parallel these Biblical examples:
 - a. Murder of babies (Exodus 1:15–21)
 - b. Clear Biblical teachings which are in contrast to government instructions (Exodus 7–11)
 - c. Refusing to engage in idolatry (Daniel 3)
 - d. Refusing to stop praying (Daniel 6) or evangelizing (Acts 4:18–20)