
AMEN Bible Study 2026

“God’s Sovereignty over Redemptive History”

Romans 13:1-7

March 26, 2026

1. God’s Sovereign Authority (vs. 1-2)

- a. All authority flows from God
- b. God ordains imperfect leaders
 - i. His sovereignty is not limited by human failure (Daniel 2:21)
- c. Submission to authority reflects trust in God’s rule
 - i. When we submit rightly, we are ultimately submitting to God’s providence.
 - ii. RC Sproul: “There is no maverick molecule in the universe—God governs all, including rulers.”

2. Orderly Society (vs. 3-4)

- a. God uses government to restrain evil and preserve order
- b. Government is an instrument of common grace
- c. Without authority, society descends into chaos
 - i. John Calvin: “Civil order is necessary for the preservation of humanity.”

3. Careful Submission (vs. 5-7)

- a. Christians obey not just outwardly, but from the heart
- b. Obedience is motivated by conscience, not just consequences.
- c. Submission includes respect, honor, and attitude—not just actions
 - i. Tim Keller: “A gospel-shaped heart produces obedience that flows from love, not fear.”

AMEN Action Steps
“God’s Sovereignty over Redemptive History”
Romans 13:1-7

HEAR the Word

“Open my eyes, that I might behold wonderful things out of your law.”
-Psalm 119:18

1. **Verses 1–4 teach that all governing authority is established by God and functions as His servant to promote good and restrain evil.** Paul emphasizes that submission to authority is ultimately submission to God’s sovereign order, and that rulers serve as instruments of justice, bearing the sword to uphold righteousness and punish wrongdoing. How does understanding that authority is established by God challenge the way you think about or respond to imperfect or difficult leaders?
2. **Verses 5–7 emphasize that Christian submission to authority flows from a transformed conscience and is expressed through practical obedience, including paying taxes, showing respect, and giving honor.** Paul teaches that believers live with integrity under authority not merely to avoid punishment, but as an act of worship and faithfulness to God. In what practical ways can you demonstrate obedience and honor toward authority as an act of worship, even when it’s difficult or inconvenient?

PRACTICE the Word

“...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”
-Matthew 7:24

1. **God establishes all authority and calls us to live under it with trust and integrity, reminding us in Romans 13 that submission is ultimately an act of obedience to Him.** If every authority exists under God’s sovereign rule—even imperfect ones—then how does that shape the way you trust God’s control over the leaders and structures in your life?
2. **When you reflect on God’s sovereign authority over every government and His call for us to live with honor, respect, and a clear conscience, does it challenge your attitude toward authority?** Does it stir in you a deeper sense of humility and trust, knowing that your obedience is not just to people, but to God Himself?

RETELL the Word

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you...”
-Mark 5:19

1. **If God has established governing authorities to promote good and restrain evil (Romans 13:1–4), how does that shape the way we explain to others that God is not distant, but actively ruling and ordering the world?** How can this truth open a door to talk about His ultimate authority over every life?
2. **Since Romans 13:5–7 teaches that our obedience flows from a transformed conscience and a desire to honor God, how can we help someone see that Christianity is not just about outward behavior, but a heart changed by the gospel?** How does this reshape the way we disciple others toward true, God-centered obedience?