

Caesar and the Saints
Romans 13:1-7

The Context of Romans 12-13

1. A call to consecrate ourselves unto God. Rom 12:1,2
2. Application: How we are to view ourselves. Rom 12:3-8.
3. Application: How we are to love others. Rom 12:9-16
4. Application: How we are to love our enemies. Rom 12:14,17-21
5. Application: How we are to view the state. Rom 13:1-7

The Command: Submit To The Governing Authorities. Rom 13:1

1. The Command: *every person in subjection* (Gk: υποτασσω) under + to place, to put.
 - ♦ *In subjection*: Place yourself under the governing authorities
E.G.: slaves (I Pet 2:18) children (I Tim 3:4); angels (Heb 2:5); wives (I Pet 3:1).
 - ♦ *Every person*. Lit every soul. No exceptions. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Ester, Ezra, Nehemiah, Zerubbabel, Peter, Paul, and Jesus *all* lived in subjection to evil governing authorities.
2. The Foundation of the command: God is *sovereign* over all government
 - ♦ He sovereignly establishes all places of authority. Jn 19:11; Prov 8:15f.
 - ♦ He sov establishes all people are in those places. Rom 9:17; Dan 4:17,25,32; Isa 45:1
 - ♦ This is always *delegated* authority (Gk. εξουσια) as opposed to raw power (Gk. κρατος)
 - ♦ Thus all authority is *defined & limited* by God. They are *responsible* to Him. Jn 19:11b
3. The Meaning: All Christians are to be *model* citizens!
 - ♦ God's work of redemption (the theme of Romans) saves us from *lawlessness*. Rom 6:19
 - ♦ We must pay taxes, vote, abide by the laws, give compliance, show respect.

The Reasons: Why We Must Be In Subjection To The Governing Authorities. Rom 13:2-5

1. If we disobey the state we will be disobeying God who established it. Vs 2a.
 - ♦ It is God who established government to prevent anarchy. Gen 6:4-8; 8:20-9:17
 - ♦ He is *behind* all authority. I Pet 2:13-14; Mt 22:17-21
 - ♦ Ultimately all sin is *against* God's authority. Satan, Adam, Babel, Noah's day, Neb, etc.
2. If we disobey the state we will be judged by God. Vs 2b
3. If we disobey the state it'll punish us -- it's been given power to punish lawbreakers. Vs 3-4
 - ♦ It is a *minister* of God! It brings *fear* to sinners -- the Church brings *Good News*
 - ♦ It's power is in the *sword*. Force. I.E. Punishment, capital punishment, warfare, jail.
 - ♦ It is a *minister of God*: An *avenger* (Cf. 12:19), bringing His *wrath* (Cf. Gen 9:5).
4. If we disobey the state we will violate our conscience (our walk w/ God). Vs 5

Questions & Issues

1. Obedience to gov't is not absolute. Vs 4a; Acts 5:29. (Cf. Mt 22:17-21; Jn 19:11)
 - ♦ If gov't commands what God forbids. Ex 1:17; Dan 3.
 - ♦ If gov't forbids what God commands. Dan 6; Acts 4:18ff.
2. The limits to gov't include the right to:
 - ♦ defend its citizens against enemies without -- wage just war
 - ♦ defend its citizens from evil-doers within -- punish immorality.
 - ♦ establish & maintain public justice. It cannot *reform* evil-doers or *develop* morality
3. Gov't needs revealed religion because it presumes a moral (metaphysics). IE it needs us
4. The relationship of Church to state is *partnership* of two distinct realms: We're its conscience

Applications. Rom 13:6-7

1. Honestly pay your fed-state-local-sales-etc taxes. Vs 6. No one *likes* unfair taxes - Mt 17:24ff
2. Show honor to all to whom its due. It adorns our theology. Vs 7
3. We must become the prophetic voice to our darkened world -- truth because its right.
4. We must not place our trust in princes & their puny kingdoms -- but in The King. Ps 146.