

GOD, GOVERNMENT, AND YOU
Masterclass for Life #8
August 2, 2026
Romans 13:1-10

**BIG IDEA: SUBMIT TO GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OUT OF
_____ FOR _____.**

GOD'S ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY

**1. Governments are appointed by God to restrain _____
and encourage _____.**

- **Application: _____ the law and advocate for
_____ out of love for Christ.**

**2. Governments are appointed by God to serve the
_____ not the _____.**

- **Application: _____ for and hold officials
_____ out of love for Christ.**

**3. We are responsible for fulfilling the law through
_____.**

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday: In the Old Testament we see God's sovereignty over the four greatest pagan empires of the Ancient Near East. God used Egypt to raise the Hebrews up from one family to 2 million and then showed his glory through the Exodus miracles. He used the Assyrians to punish sinful Israel. He used the Babylonians to punish sinful Judah. He used the Persians to free the Hebrews from Babylon and return them to Jerusalem. All nations are ultimately accountable to God.

Tuesday: Romans 13:1-3 reveals that God's first function of government is to punish bad behavior and encourage good behavior. Your role is to obey the law and advocate for good. Our "government of the people" needs your engagement. How well are you obeying the law out of love for Christ? How are you engaged in advocating for good laws and enforcement?

Wednesday: Romans 13:4 says God established government "for your good" (the good of the people) not for the good of the officials. How did our founders express that belief in the Declaration of Independence. (Google and read the whole Declaration.) What did Paul challenge us to do about this in 1 Timothy 2:1-4? Pray now for our federal, state and local officials.

Thursday: No government can effectively restrain evil and encourage good without knowing good from evil. What is your role in holding elective officials accountable? Remember that the USA is a government of the people not the rulers. Vote in every election. Get and stay informed on issues. Exercise your fight to free speech to encourage and challenge elected officials. Do this all in love!

Friday: Read Romans 13:9-10. What does love have to do with fulfilling the law? What did Jesus say about this in Matthew 22:34-40? As Christ followers our ultimate loyalty is to Christ as Lord (Rom. 10:9). Our submission to governmental authorities falls under our love for and submission to Christ. Let love for God and for people provide both the inspiration for obedience and boundaries for it. Let love inspire your engagement in government as a Christian citizen.