

A Gospel Response to Government (Pt. 3)

Romans 13:1-7

- I. A Universal Command to Submit to Government (1a)
- II. The Reasons to Submit to Government (1b-6)
 - A. God established the principle and structures of all human authority (1b).
 - B. God has appointed all who currently occupy positions of authority in government (1c).

“Those Which Exist” (1c)

1. The various **forms** of gov't (e.g., monarchies, democracies, oligarchies)
2. The different **levels** of gov't within a country (e.g., federal, state, local)
3. The various **positions** in a particular government (the president, members of congress, judges, governors, etc.)
4. The specific **individuals** who occupy positions in gov't (e.g., President Trump, Chief Justice Roberts, Senator McConnell, House Speaker Pelosi, Governor Abbott, etc.)

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B. God has appointed all who currently occupy positions of authority in government (1c).

1. What Paul Does NOT mean

- a. God approves of the character of every person in gov't.
- b. God approves of the nature of every person's rule.
- c. God approves of the way every ruler comes to power.
- d. God is immediately responsible for establishing wicked, abusive rulers and ruthless regimes.
 - Satan is the god of this world (1 Jn. 5:19; Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Rev. 12:9; 20:3, 7-8).
 - Satan has limited authority over the kingdoms of this world (Luke 4:5-6).
 - Satan appoints specific demons to influence earthly rulers, their nations and kingdoms (Dan. 10:13).
 - Satan places, empowers, and uses rulers to oppose God and His purposes (Ps. 2:1-3; Ezek. 28:11-19; 2 Th. 2:8-9; Rev. 2:10).

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B. God has appointed all who currently occupy positions of authority in government (1c).

1. What Paul Does NOT mean

2. What Paul DOES Mean

- a. God is ultimately responsible for appointing all earthly rulers — either personally installing them or allowing Satan to install them for time for God's own purposes (Rom. 9:17; Dan. 4:17, 25, 32; Jn. 19:10-11; 1 Tim. 6:15).
- b. One day, our Lord will take back this world entirely from Satan and its Satanic governments and rulers and will establish His own perfect earthly kingdom (Rev. 1:5; 2:27; 17:14; 19:15-16).
- c. Because God is ultimately responsible for appointing all earthly rulers—directly or indirectly—we must submit, obey, and honor all those in positions of government authority (Jer. 27:5-8, 17; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).