

## Romans 13:1–7

\*Please stand for the reading of God's Word\*

[1] Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. [2] Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. [3] For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, [4] for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. [5] Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. [6] For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. [7] Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

→We consider a hot topics in American– politics, government, elected leaders. This passage is much more doctrinal than we might at first imagine. Paul's exposition of truth's political implications at the beginning (vv1-7 the begin and end of God's Word on...)

- #1 God's authority instituting and over the Nations – MAN'S IDEA//
- #2 God's appointment – deacons and ministers of God – INVOLVED//
- #3 God's judgement (Romans 2) – IMPLEMENTING HIS WRATH TEMPORARILY//
- #4 God and Bad in the Eyes of God (Romans 1-3) – REVEAL HIS LAW//
- #5 Conscience from God (Romans 2) – REINFORCE MORAL LAW INTERNALLY//

Conformed to the will of God (nothing else), humbled by the role/giftedness God has granted us (content with who we are and our allotted role), love sincerely (not to be seen), live peaceably (not disagreeable for no purpose), not take vengeance for ourselves (room for wrath), & receive evil → repay with good need HS

→The political dimensions of the person and work of Christ are evident from the opening words of Romans – just flip over there and we can do a slow reading of Paul's opening words

1) Descended from David – line of the king of Israel. God promised (2 Sam 7) / Usurped Saul – He spared Saul because he was God's anointed. Cut the corner of his robe [I am holding back bec of YHWH]

2) Son of God in \_\_\_\_\_ - Gospel comes, by the Spirit, power to change/transform

3) Jesus Christ our \_\_\_\_\_ - Big political issue: Caesar estin Kurios → Say it! Say it or else! (Capital)

4) Obedience of Faith- Grace of God at work in me: Bring about Joyful, Willing Obedience

Among all the Nations → Superseding Government above all Nations: Christ is King over His People. A sanctified and resilient church can rise from the ashes of a ruined state, bec of the Work of XP

*Look, the world we live in, particularly the government, has co-opted the moral and spiritual under the banner of political issues (end game: gag order → you don't get to talk about these things/engage)*

The sense I got from preaching/teaching was “we will talk about government to the extent that we will tell you we don’t really talk about it. Separation of church and state. Pay your taxes, be a good citizen, and please don’t ask the pastor about political issues and definitely not who you should vote for..”

- This passage does not prohibit the state to redefine/alter: marriage (1 man/1 woman), gender (2-Male and Female), human sexuality (LGBTIA- Satanic ideology that will cont. to push)

A part of the deception of Satan contains this horrible assumption – nothing in the human experience is necessarily interconnected. Do what God told you NOT to do –/ Benefits and Consequences [Twisted]

### **Summarize this passage:**

*Every human being is subject to the governing authorities. Paul is addressing humanity, not simply Christians. We can see this in the way this grouping differs from 12:1 (Brothers), 12:3 (Everyone among you). All authority is from God and specifically instituted by God. If you resist what God has appointed, you’ll incur judgement. Rulers are called to reward good behavior and punish bad behavior. He is God’s deacon, minister, appointed to bear the sword and carry out God’s wrath. So, be in subjection to authorities that you may avoid God’s wrath and (even if you are clever enough not to get caught) keep a clear conscience before the Lord. Taxes, revenue, and the honor/respect due to office holders is all subsumed under this teaching. Essentially, the Christian is called to be a model citizen.*

Don’t cause trouble with those that are God’s servants for your good – to curb evil and reward righteousness. Good Government is God’s appointed Pre-Evangelism (Law). It holds forth the intrinsic goodness of the law with judgement for disobeying it. Judges is the antithesis: **“No king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own Eyes.”**

Peter’s first letter covers similar ground and does have a few qualifications (1 Peter 2:13ff.):

*<sup>1</sup>Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a coverup for evil, but <sup>s</sup>living as servants<sup>4</sup> of God.<sup>17</sup>  
<sup>t</sup>Honor everyone. <sup>u</sup>Love the brotherhood. <sup>v</sup>Fear God. Honor the emperor.<sup>18</sup> <sup>w</sup>Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.<sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, <sup>x</sup>mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.<sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But <sup>y</sup>if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.<sup>21</sup> For <sup>z</sup>to this you have been called, <sup>y</sup>because Christ also suffered for you, <sup>a</sup>leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*

We know from the apostle’s example that they rejoiced at being counted worthy to suffer for the name of Christ. They have a glorious, eternal perspective. Both things highlight the gracious work of God among humanity. If you do good, considering the governing powers, they will either reward you for it or punish you for it - ignore. Imagine you act good in a way. You could receive an “atta boy” right now. However, you could also receive a fine or jail time or some other kind of mistreatment. Endure it. This is a gracious thing in God’s sight. In Christ, your “atta boy” is coming, but it will not come until the Last Day.

**We can hold this teaching because → God is sovereign over all things – Just and Has a Plan.** Justice is the Lord’s execution of his Holiness one earth in history. Plan is Perfect, Redemption accomplished in Christ. When mindful of God, you endure the way things are → Over the years, I am convinced

'Endurance' is a lot of the XPian Life. Must be clear (Endurance is not passive acceptance of a situation)  
Carrie Underwood: "Jesus take the wheel!" If you let go of the wheel, a powerhungry tyrant will grab it for you

(Psalm 2)– nations → bent completing the rebellion of Cain by overcoming God's sovereign King

look at Daniel (Nebuchadnezzar – Dream? God's Sov Plan through Nations)

covenant line: Patriarchs (Abraham, Issac, Jacob, Joseph-ascends 2<sup>nd</sup> in Egypt)

Our very redemption: Jesus Christ (who was condemned by the Jewish and Roman courts of

*We could even go earlier than that – the first governing authority with built in force to make one comply (Ideological position with the force of Law) happened immediately after God expelled Adam and Eve from the garden – cherubim and a flaming sword.*

Government exists to legislate God's holy morality with the force to make individuals comply. Yet, when and if they are unjust, they are only escaping God's judgement for the moment (maybe a very long moment) How long did Egypt oppress Hebrews? *Ex. 3:19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go.*

**Let us not forget that there is only a people of God to save in Egypt because the Hebrew midwives directly disobeyed the command of Pharaoh → God blessed them.**

The history of the world and God's own people looks like a haphazard mess from an outside, secular perspective. The purposes of our Almighty God, His glory, is all that holds it together.

Obedience to what the government legislates, especially when we know that a given law is righteous, should be a no-brainer for the Christian. (Even if a law is passively neutral, it is a no-brainer) You should be a model citizen, I should be a model citizen. However, that must be informed by what Paul has already taught us – who raised up Pharaoh(9:15ff), hardened his heart, that his righteousness might be displayed? (Authorities can be wicked.) He gives the example of (Rom 11:1ff) Elijah, fearful that he is the last godly man in Israel, "It's only me..." I've got yet 7,000 who have

**HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL** (Interesting, isn't it? Defiance of a law that calls for idol worship automatically infers – faith, fear of the Lord, a life of holiness.) God has His people and we must not be deluded that our calling to love and pursue peace // pushback and resist

Realize this passage can be preached to call those in leadership to repentance – any Biblical idea held forth can be preached to call us to repentance. (Husbands/Wives, Fathers/Mothers, Children, Role)

Create in us boldness to preach repentance to the White House. Repent and Believe – Rule in righteousness. Carry out the moral law of God. Punish evil and reward the good.

**WHY? Romans 6: First a citizen of XP Kingdom and a Slave to righteousness (We obey Gov for God's sake)**

**OPTIONS? Good- Subjection (Moral Law)/Bad – Endurance (1 Peter)/Very Bad – Resistance(Daniel/Elijah)**

CLOSE IN PRAYER – Psalm 9:19-20 and Extemporaneous.