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God is the Ultimate Authority **Romans 13:1-7**

I. Governing Authorities have been Established by God (v. 1)

- A. Authority is to be _____ to (1 Pet. 2:13, 18; 3:1; 5:5; Eph. 6:1; 1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- B. Authority is _____ by God (Jn. 19:10-11; Dan. 2:21; 4:17; Psa. 75:7; Get. 2:8 15, 18, 24; 6:13; 9:1, 5-6, 9, 17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:2; Heb. 13:17)

II. Whoever Resists the Authorities Will Receive Judgment (v. 2)

- A. To resist authority is to resist what God has _____
(Ex. 9:16; Isa. 45:1; Prov. 21:1)
- B. To resist authority is to incur _____ (Dan. 1:8; 6:10; Acts 4:19-20; 5:28-29; Rom. 13:8, 10)

III. Rulers Don't Punish Good Conduct but Evil (v. 3)

- A. Do not _____ the authorities (1 Pet. 2:15-16)
- B. Do what is _____ and you will receive praise
(1 Pet. 2:13-14; Gal. 6:7)

IV. The Government is to be God's Servant for Your Good (v. 4)

- A. He does not bear the _____ in vain (Gen. 9:6; Matt. 26:52)
- B. He is an _____ who carries out God's wrath (2 Chron. 19:6)

V. It is Necessary to be in Subjection to the Authorities (v. 5)

- A. Be in subjection to avoid God's _____
(Rom. 12:18-19)
- B. Be in subjection to maintain a clear _____
(Acts 24:16)

VI. Christians Pay Taxes because Rulers are Ministers of God (vv. 6-7)

- A. Pay _____ and revenues to whom it is due (Matt. 17:25-27; 22:17-21)
- B. Pay _____ and honor to whom it is due
(1 Pet. 2:17)

TAKE HOME

- How does the fact that God **established** every authority help you better relate to your authorities?
- What is the importance of understanding the difference between God appointing every authority and **approving** of every authority?
- When is it **honoring** to God to practice civil disobedience?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placeritachurch.com.

1. Read Romans 13:1. What authorities are set up in Scripture? (1 Pet. 2:13, 18; 3:1; 5:5; Eph. 6:1) Discuss the challenges and blessings in each one of these examples.

2. Read Romans 13:2. What does this verse mean when it says that if you resist the authorities that you are resisting God? Where else in the Bible does it say that authority is instituted by God? (Jn. 19:10-11; Dan. 2:21; 4:17; Psa. 75:7; Get. 2:8 15, 18, 24; 6:13; 9:1, 5-6, 9, 17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:2; Heb. 13:17)

3. Read Romans 13:3. What about when rulers are a terror to good conduct? What then? When is it permissible or even advised to practice civil disobedience?

4. Read Romans 13:4. How is the one in authority God’s servant for your good? Do you ever need to be afraid of authority?

5. What does it mean for the government to bear the sword? In what cases is the government carrying out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer? In what cases is this not true?

6. Read Romans 13:5. What are the two things we should be thinking about that we want to avoid when we come under subjection to the authorities? (Rom. 12:18-19; Acts 24:16)

7. Read Romans 13:6-7. What are the authorities tending to in verse 6? Discuss the importance of paying taxes, revenue, respect, and honor in verse 7.

8. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? Why? How will you live differently based on what you have learned from this passage?

“It follows that the Christian lives always in a tension between two competing claims; that in certain circumstances disobedience to the command of the State may be not only a right but also a duty.”

- Holman New Testament Commentary on Romans