

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

“God & Government”

Chapter 13:1-7

ROMANS



“God And Government”

Romans 13:1-7

Intro: How we see ourselves *primarily*, determines how we *relate* to governmental *authority*.

We should ask ourselves:

1. Am I more *American* than I am a *Christian*?
2. What do I see as a *compelling* act to take *action*?
3. Does *Scripture* give me an option to be *civilly* disobedient?
4. If so, on whose *behalf* do I take such *action*?

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I. Reasons for our Subjection to Authority

In Romans 12 we are told:

1. Live in *love*,
2. Be at *peace* with all men,
3. Do not take *vengeance*,
4. Overcome *evil* with good.

In Romans 13 we see that *all* authority is the *work* of God. He places mankind in positions of *authority* which is for our *good*.

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I. Reasons for our Subjection to Authority

We must obey in order to *avoid* punishment and to have a clear *conscience* before God.

To oppose God *ordained* authority is to *oppose* God and incur *wrath*.

Government is a *gift* in a fallen world, restraining *evil* and keeping *order*.

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II. The Origin of Authority

God ordained both the *institution* of Gov’t, and *individual* leaders.

Jesus confirmed that the *authority* which Pilate had was given to him by God, **John 19:10-11**.

While we are *commanded* to obey all authority, those orders and laws need to be *qualified* as governments may, directly or indirectly make *requirements* which oppose God’s Law.

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III. Civil Disobedience in Scripture

Scripture shows God not only *allows* for civil disobedience in certain *instances*, but also *praises* those involved.

Ex. 1:17,20; Daniel 3, 6; Acts 4:18-19, 5:29.

We can *oppose* civil gov't when it asks us to *sin* because God's authority is greater than *gov't* authority.

Violation of our *constitutional* or civil rights, unless it includes Laws that are *contrary* to God's word, are not grounds, *scripturally* speaking, to be disobedient.