

“Submitting For The Sake Of Salvation”

Romans 13:1-7

Main Point: We must submit to government authorities.

Introduction

- In what area of life do you feel the strongest tension between living as a citizen of your country and living as a citizen of God’s kingdom?

Understanding

1. I Submit because Governing Authorities are God's Appointed - Read Romans 13:1-2

- a. How do most people feel about submitting to anything? Why?
- b. Why would God put someone in governmental authority who is not Godly?
- c. Refer to Exodus 10:1-2. For what purpose does God allow Pharaoh to be in governance over Israel?
- d. We learn here that when authorities are working properly (verse 2), bad actions are being punished. How might the authorities in your life act as your defender if someone sins against or harms you?

- e. In what ways should we submit to the government?

- f. Why are the apostles in trouble with the Jewish authorities in Acts 5:26-32? What does it mean in Acts 5:28 when the high priest says, “you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine?”

- g. Using Acts 5:28-29 as an example in what instances should we obey God rather than men?

2. I Submit because the Governing Authorities are God’s Avengers. Read Romans 13:3-5.

- a. What do verses 3 and 4 say that the government is supposed to do?

- b. What two reasons are we to be in submission to governing authorities according to verse 5?

- c. What conflicts can arise from a government overextending its power to matters of conscience, which it is not equipped to address?

- d. Describe a time recently when it was hard for you to believe God's sovereign rule over government, either in our country or another nation.
- e. Identify some of the governing authorities over us. In what ways do we try to get around the challenge of submitting to authorities?

3. I Submit because the Governing Authorities are God's Attendants. Read Romans 13:6-7

- a. What specific ways did Paul tell us to submit in verse 7?
- b. Do you find the obligations in verse 7 easy or difficult to do as a matter of lawful obedience and Christian conscience? Why?
- c. How can we pay respect and honor to government officials we don't think are very worthy of honor or respect?
- d. Why do we need high-quality Christian citizens?
- e. Read Matthew 22:15-22. What does Jesus mean when He says, "*Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.*?" How does this look in your walk with the Lord?

- f. Living in a world that is increasingly hostile to our Christian faith, what should our focus be as we wait to meet the Lord face to face?

Application

- What has God spoken to you about during this study? What changes in heart or action do you need to make?