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GRACE
CHANGES EVERYTHING



WEEK 13 | Politics as Unusual

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the amazing book of Romans, the incredible truths it contains... and the important lessons it teaches. Give me a teachable spirit, so that by your grace I may learn to love all people with a supernatural, Christ-like love. Help me to forgive those who have hurt or harmed me, and multiply your everlasting love for others within my heart – for your eternal praise and glory, this I ask in Jesus name, Amen.

From [Prayer Knowing Jesus](#)

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Which country were you born in, and what is the best thing about that country?

NOTES

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.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

[ROMANS 13:1-8](#)

“Paul knew from [Daniel 2:21](#), “[God] removes kings and sets up kings” – all kings. They are all under his control. He puts them in office and he takes them out of office. So the answer is yes, [Romans 13:1](#) applies to all rulers good and bad. “For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.”

This means that the Roman Christians and we today should learn that it is God's will to govern the world of mankind through human civil authorities. This is God's plan. Man did not create government. God did. Man does not sustain it. God does. Civil authority is God's idea in this age. Yes, we are not to conform to this age. Yes, many of these rulers kill Christians. Yes, they tax you and take your money—God's money. Yes, your lifestyle should be merciful and not vengeful. Yes, they can exile you and make you leave Rome or anywhere else. And I say to you, civil authority is God's chosen instrument to govern the world of men.

Submit to it out of reverence for God—not reverence for the ruler. God has stripped rulers of their final authority. That's what verse one means. They are not God. God is God. When you submit, you submit for God's sake. “Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution” ([1 Peter 2:13](#)). And this Lord is the risen Lord Jesus who is King of Kings and to whom all authority in heaven and earth has been given. In other words, keeping the speed limit is Christian worship.”

excerpt from John Piper on Romans 13:1-8 “[Subjection to God and Subjection to the State part 1](#)”

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = never; 10 = always), how do you rate your frequency or ability to abide by the rules in any situation? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. How do you think God would have us honour the governing authorities in our lives? What are some practical ways that we can bring honour to those who lead us?
3. Do you believe that God rules, no matter which government party is in power? Why or why not?
4. With the government and politics being such sensitive subjects in many places, how might those who believe that Jesus rules the world, conduct themselves in a way that displays godly peacefulness?
5. Paul seems to be addressing a way that the church must honour God by paying their taxes to the Roman government (vs 6-7). The Christians in Rome may have struggled with this, as they were oppressed at that time by the Roman rulers. How might we submit to authority that we may not agree with?
6. Would you like to trust in God who is our SOVEREIGN RULING GOD with every area your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER