

# Submission to Authority

Romans 13:1-7

## Introduction

### I The Source Of Authority

- A. Everyone must **submit** himself to the governing authorities
  - 1. There is **no** authority except what God has established - Jer 27:3-9; Jn 19:10-11
  - 2. The authorities that exist have been **established** by God - Dan 2:20-21; 5:21
- B. Everyone who **rebels** against authority:
  - 1. Is rebelling against what **God** has instituted - Ex 16:6-8
  - 2. Will bring judgment on themselves - 2 Pet 2:9-10
- C. Everyone is affected by their **response** to authority
  - 1. Rulers hold no terror for those who do **right**
  - 2. Rulers hold terror for those who do **wrong** - Prov 24:21-22
    - a. Do you want to be free from fear?
    - 1. Do right and you will be **commended** - 1 Pet 2:14

### II The Purpose Of Authority

- A. Authorities are God's **servant**
  - 1. To do **good** to those who do right - 1 Pet 3:13-14
  - 2. To **punish** those who do wrong - Rom 12:19-20
    - a. He does not bear the sword for nothing
    - b. He is a servant of God - Rom 1:18
    - c. He is an agent of wrath to punish - 1 Pet 2:13-14
- B. Authorities are to be **submitted** to:
  - 1. Not only because of possible punishment
  - 2. But also because of **conscience** - Tit 3:1-2; Acts 24:16

### III The Application Of Authority

- A. We are to pay our **taxes** - Matt 22:16-21
  - 1. For the authorities are God's servants - Eph 6:5-6
  - 2. For the authorities give time to governing - 1 Tim 5:18
- B. We are to give to everyone what we **owe**
  - 1. If you owe taxes, pay taxes - Matt 22:16-21

- 2. If you owe **revenue**, pay revenue
- 3. If you owe respect, pay respect - 1 Pet 2:17
- 4. If you owe **honor**, pay honor - 1 Pet 2:13-17

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following questions:

- 1. When was the last time you got a traffic ticket? What emotions did you experience when you were pulled over? How did you feel toward the police officer? How would you describe your overall attitude toward authority in your life?
- 2. Based on Paul's teaching in Romans 13:1-7, is it possible to live a life pleasing to God while at the same time rebelling against the authority he has placed over your life? Why or why not?
- 3. Are there any areas in your life where you have knowingly disobeyed God by disobeying His appointed governmental authorities? How have you justified your disobedience? How have these actions affected your conscience? Your relationship with God? What steps do you need to take to correct this situation? Are you willing?
- 4. According to Paul, who places people in authority? In light of this, is it ever appropriate to refuse to obey governing authorities? [See Acts 5:27-32] Are there any modern-day issues that biblically mandate civil disobedience?
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where you have rebelled against Him by rebelling against the authority he has placed over your life. Repent and take steps to correct the situation right away. Take a few moments to pray for those in authority over you using 1 Tim 2:1-4 as a pattern for your prayer.

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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