

Romans 13:1-7

Submitting to Governing Authorities

This is a timely study for us! We will carefully study what the scriptures say about submitting to governing authorities, our response to governing authorities and how do we respond when authorities supersede God & His righteousness.

Pray: Ask the Lord to give you discernment as you study these scriptures and show you how in all things to honor Him.

Read Romans 13:1-7

¹ Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Day 1: What do these verses say?

(Who, What, When, Where, Why & How)

1. Who is to be subject to governing authorities and why according to verse 1?
2. In verse 2, What is stated about resisting authority?
3. What causes people to fear or not fear authorities in verse 3?
4. From verse 4, list the purposes of government.
5. What are the reasons to be subject to authorities in verse 5?
6. Because of what these authorities do, what are we to do according to verses 6 and 7?

7. Write a list of the good things we enjoy because of governmental authorities. Take time to thank the Lord for these things.

Day 2: Other verses on Authority

Read: 1 Peter 2:13-17

1. What additional information can be gleaned regarding authorities and how we are to behave towards them?
2. How are we to live and what can this accomplish?

Read: Titus 3:1-2

3. What are we TO DO and NOT do according to these verses in Titus?

Read Ephesians 4:31-32

4. List what we are to get rid of. . . then what we are to be towards others.
5. Looking back over the last few months consider your heart towards governing leaders. Has anything been in your heart from the “get rid of” list of Ephesians 4:31? If there is—it IS sin regardless of what you think about the authority including governors and presidents. . . Spend some time with the Lord on this and ask the Holy Spirit to examine your heart and seek forgiveness is applicable. If necessary refer back to Romans 12:14.

Day 3: What to Do. . .

When the Authorities are Evil

written by CC Pastor Tim Brown

Lucias' father died when he was two years old and Lucius took the name Nero when he was adopted at age 13 by his great-uncle, Claudius—the Roman Emperor. Nero's mother, Agrippina the Younger, had married Claudius after arranging the death of her second husband and was the driving force behind her son's adoption. She arranged for Nero to wed Claudius' daughter Octavia in AD 53, further sidelining the emperor's son Britannicus. Upon Claudius' sudden death in AD 54 (classical sources suggest Agrippina fed him poisoned mushrooms) the 17-year-old Nero ascended the throne. Nero came to the throne of the Roman Empire through murder, intrigue, and subterfuge. Claudius' biological son, Britannicus—the natural and legal heir—was sidelined and bypassed. Those favoring Britannicus' claim to the throne were executed. Nero came to the throne in a cloud of conspiracy—many believed he didn't belong there.

Crazy, godless Nero is not just an interesting historical figure, he was the Roman Caesar during the larger part of the ministry of the apostles Peter and Paul. Peter and Paul didn't argue that Caesar Nero deserved no obedience or respect because he was godless or crazy or an illegitimate ruler. Peter wrote the emperor should be honored, and Paul wrote that all authority is established by God—not by people. Both had been mistreated by Jewish and Roman authorities. Both authorities had acted in unjust and unreasonable ways towards them. Both served to impede, in their different ways, the advance of the gospel and sought to repress the truth. Yet Peter and Paul regarded Roman authority as exercised by crazy, godless, illegitimate Nero to be legitimate—even God-ordained authority.

No, this doesn't mean that the governing authorities embody the will of God—Nero and Roman power structure certainly didn't. Yes, we can still speak truth to power. Yes, we can redress the government to our grievances. But, no, we cannot encourage disrespect to our government structure and authorities.

- Considering the verses we studied in Romans, Peter and Titus and what Pastor Tim wrote, what are your thoughts?

When Authorities Supersede God & His Righteousness, what do we do?

This is an extremely pertinent question in the day in which we live. How are we to respond when the governing authorities legislate evil or impede our worship of the Lord?

Read Daniel Chapter 6

- Outline the chapter. . . (i.e. Who was after Daniel? Why were they targeting him? What trap did they lay? How did Daniel respond? What was the final outcome?)

Day 4: When Authorities Supersede God & His Righteousness continued. . .

Look up the following scriptures. What areas do they address that have current application for believers?

- Matthew 14:3-13 What happened and why?
 - What parallel issues are part of our society? _____
- Psalm 139:13-16
 - Current parallel issue: _____
- Hebrews 10:24-25, what are the believers to do?
 - Current parallel issue: _____
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-13
 - Current applications: _____
- Acts 4:1-22 (key verses for this study 18-22)
 - Current applications: _____
- Acts 12:1-4, Why did this happen and what was the purpose?
 - Current world parallel: _____
- Psalm 5:5, 13:6, 100:2
 - Current parallel: _____

Any other scriptures and situation come to mind? I am sure there are many more!

Day 5: Who are we “in the world?”

- Matthew 5:14-16
- John 17: 14-18, our relationship to the world. . .
- I John 4:3-4
- 2 Thessalonians 2:7

We must remember that our enemy is not the authorities over us. They are flesh and blood like us. We need to keep in mind that we, too, were once lost and our minds deceived. We were slaves to sin, but set free by Jesus who redeemed us with His blood. Our battle is against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this age and against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. This is a battle fought on our knees first and then courageously, with love, standing in the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our speech **MUST** be full of grace and truth reflecting the character of Christ. We are witnesses **NOT** lawyers. Reflect on these things and the verses we have studied. Pray asking the Lord to direct your steps as we live in these exciting days.

2 Timothy 3:12-15

All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution**.¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.¹⁴ But you must **continue** in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to *make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*.

Our hope—the Lord. . .

Psalms 34:19-22

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

²⁰ He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.

²¹ Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.

²² The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.