

16. How can we *be devoted to prayer* on each other's behalf this week?

Quotes to Ponder

Submission means believing that God is able to accomplish His will in my life through those He has placed in authority over me.

In these politically charged times, it is good to remember that when Jesus comes back, he won't be riding an elephant or a donkey. In our zeal for certain moral issues, we may leave the impression that God is a Republican or a Democrat. He's neither. He's the ultimate Independent, and he's got the only vote that counts.

Ray Pritchard

Christians are called to be extraordinary models of civil obedience.

We live in a kingdom where the supreme political authority is vested in Jesus Christ. When we disobey lesser authorities, we are disobeying those whose authority rests on Christ and has come from Him and through Him.

R.C. Sproul

We are not only subject to the authority of princes who perform their office toward us uprightly and faithfully as they ought, but also to the authority of all who, by whatever means, have got control of affairs, even though they perform not a whit of the princes' office.

John Calvin

The mission of the church is not to change society—although that is often a beneficial by-product of faithful ministry and living—but to worship and serve the Lord and to bring others to saving faith in Him.

John MacArthur

The people of God then ought to consider resistance to the government under which they live as a very awful crime, even as resistance to God Himself.

Robert Haldane

If a Christian cannot submit to human authorities, why should we think they would submit to a divine one?

Michael Kruger

These seven verses have caused more unhappiness & misery in the Christian East & West than any other seven verses in the New Testament.

J.C. O'Neill

Whatever makes good Christians, makes them good citizens.

Daniel Webster



Message #101: Christian Citizens

February 5, 2017

Sermon
Notes

1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. Why does Paul talk about submitting to governmental authority here?

3. Why does Paul tell us to *submit* and not to *obey*?

4. Do all governments derive their authority from God? Does this include evil rulers? Explain.

5. What was the Roman government like as Paul wrote this?

6. How do we know that a given government is ordained of God and that He has given it authority?

7. What is our responsibility to government if we are *aliens and strangers* in this world (*1 Peter 2:11*)?

How are we to live in the world but not be of it (*John 17:11, 16*)?

8. Who will condemn those who resist authority (*Romans 12:2*)?

9. What should be our motives for submitting to government?

10. Is a bad government better than anarchy? If so, how? If not, why not?

11. What do these verses say about the limits of our duty to submit to the government?
Exodus 1:17 — *Daniel 6:7* —

- Daniel 3:4-6* — *Acts 5:29* —

12. Under what, if any, conditions might civil disobedience be morally called for?

13. Why do you think God established structures of authority within the nation? The home? The church? The workplace?

14. Suppose our government suddenly denied us all the social and political freedoms we now enjoy. How should we respond according to these verses?
1 Timothy 2:1-3 — *1 Peter 2:12-17* —

- Titus 3:1-2* —

15. **Reflection Questions:** What authority in my life am I resisting right now? Do I treat the authorities over me with the same respect I treat God who appointed them? How can I be more submissive to the authorities over me?