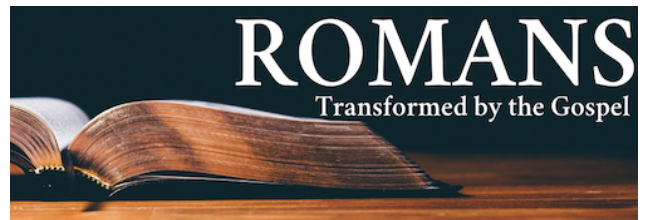


A Believer's Relationship to the State!

Dec. 13, 2020 – Romans 13:1-7
Pastor Jon Pickens



What Does God Say About Submission to Authority? (Romans 13:1-7)

1. The clear **command** in this passage is for believers to submit to governing authorities.
2. There are 2 **reasons** behind the command to submit to governing authorities.
 - a. Governing authorities are actually God's **design**.
 - b. All governing authorities are **established** by God.
3. The implication is that to resist authority is to go **against** God's design, which brings about **judgment**.

Is there any cases in which submission to authority is permitted?

1. It is permitted in the case when authorities are telling you **to do** what God has told you **not to do**.
2. It is permitted in the case when authorities are telling you **not to do** what God has told you **to do**.

What shall we conclude?

1. As believers, we should submit to our government because it is the **right** thing to do.
2. Believers need to weigh very carefully what circumstances we try to **justify** for resisting governmental authority, because it is not a light matter to God.
3. Unjustified resistance will have devastating **effects**.
 - a. Divine **Judgment**
 - b. Human **Punishment**
 - c. Gospel **Disillusionment**
4. Submission to authority doesn't mean that you have no **voice**, it means you exercise your voice from a position of submission.

Questions

1. Why is submission to authority such a big deal to God based on Romans 13:1-7?
2. Can you think of good reasons to be resistant to governing authorities that you support from the Scriptures?
3. Can you think of bad reasons to be resistant to governing authorities?
4. How is this teaching relevant for the church today?
5. How has this passage challenged you or encouraged you?

Next Steps: December Reading Plan (Week 2)

Day One: Gen. 27-28

Day Two: Gen. 29-30:34

Day Three: Gen. 31-32

Day Four: Gen. 33; 35

Day Five: Gen. 37

Journaling Tip:

Slow down and ask the Lord to reveal something about Himself to you. Your time in the Word is more about revelation than application. Many times what God reveals about Himself will just lead you to worship Him.

Next Week's Sermon: A Christmas Message

December Scripture Memory:

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

What was your big take-a-way from the message this morning?