

WORD

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. **ROMANS 13:1**

As followers of Christ, we are to honor God in everything we do and in every area of life. One way to do this is through submitting to the authorities appointed to lead and govern our nation. In this lesson, we will learn three principles on submitting to God-given authorities.

1 Every authority is instituted by God.

¹Let 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. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **ROMANS 13:1,2**

Civil government is part of God's plan. In fact, He appointed the authorities tasked to govern our cities, regions, and nation (Daniel 2:21). What does it mean to be *subject to the governing authorities* God has placed in our lives?

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2 Government authorities are ministers of God.

... 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. **ROMANS 13:4**

The government is a divine institution, and God uses government authorities as instruments for the good of our nation. These men and women are ministers of God (Romans 13:6), whether they are Christians or not. How does God call us to respond to every *human institution*? (1 Peter 2:13)

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3 We honor God by honoring civil government.

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. **ROMANS 13:7**

As followers of Jesus, we are called to submit to God's appointed authorities. God is at work in our government, and He is sovereign in our lives and our nation. How does God's Word describe who Jesus is, in terms of governance? (Isaiah 9:6)

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APPLICATION

- How faithful are you in following the civil laws in your community? What can you do today to become a more faithful law-abiding citizen?
- How can you honor the civil authorities God has placed above you? This week, take time to think of ways to do so, and put them into practice.
- Are there areas in your life that are not under God's authority? Ask God to take charge of these, and intercede for grace to obey and yield to His leadership.

PRAYER

- Thank God for our nation and take time to pray for each aspect of our national and local government this week. Intercede for wisdom, fear of God, and righteousness for our government officials.
- Ask God for the grace and faith to see God's authority upon our civil government. Pray that this will move us to submit to God-given authorities in our lives.
- Pray for a deeper understanding of God's sovereignty in our lives, particularly in the area of governance. Ask God for a greater capacity to trust Him and submit to His will.



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