

*Scripture Reference: Romans 13:1-7 / "Christian Citizenry"
Living your faith in the political arena.*

“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities.”

- “Every person,” believer and non-believer, alike are under obligation to submit to the authority over him or her.

- Why? There are at least three reasons:

1. Authority reflects God. (v. 2)

Life declares God’s glory. Submission to authority reminds us of God’s sovereign reign. The authority of rulers, of whatever type, serves as a reminder of God. – Psalm 8

2. Authority serves the good of the whole. (v. 3)

Chaos ensues if people do anything they desire. Authority insures the good of the many outweighs the desires of the few.

3. Authority serves to punish evil and limit injustice. (v. 4)

Justice rests with established authority. It is not in the hands of the one who is wounded. – Romans 12:17

“For there is no authority except from God.”

- This injunction, this command, applies to all. In rendering to human authority what is due people learn to submit to God. – Mark 12:14-17

- Submission to, or rebellion of, authority is a spiritual issue. We chaff against *any* authority because we want to have our own way in life.

- What about evil, humanistic, ineffective governments? Are we to submit to them?

- Being sinners, humanity has perverted the institution of authority to his or her own purposes.

- As believers until such time as those in authority seek to lead us to compromise our devotion to God, we are subject to their authority. – Acts 5:40-42

“Those which exist are established by God.”

- Authorities, whether the person is likeable or not, whether their policies are agreeable or not, are ordained of God. God is working to glorify Himself given their presence.

- In America we have the freedom to be involved in the political process. To take our faith into the public arena, and we must!

- But, our actions must be done in a manner that honors God **and** respects authority. – 1 Sam. 24:1-6 / 1 Sam 26:1-12 / Acts 23:1-5.

- Keep in mind, “established” is not the same as *approved*. They would not exist if God hadn’t allowed them.

Two Things Need to be Remembered:

1. A believer belongs to another kingdom.

- He or she is to look for God's will to be done.

- This is to be regardless of what happens. The believer is to live for Him, whether it is easy or not.

2. This place is not the believer's home.

- It is not God's intent that this world system be transformed. It will eventually be destroyed and a new one installed. – Revelation 21