

ROMANS—Part 80

Romans 13:1-7

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1. 13:1 Paul was speaking specifically to Christians, declaring that Christianity and good citizenship go together.
2. 13:1 The command is about much more than obeying the laws of the land; it includes genuine respect for government officials as God's agents to maintain order and justice in society.
3. 13:1 Believers are to be prototypical citizens: obedient and respectful, rather than demeaning and rebellious (1 Peter 2:13-17; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 3:1; Jeremiah 29:7).
4. 13:1 A biblical community is a fellowship of saints living peaceably within an ungodly culture, exhibiting lives which show the transforming power of God.
5. 13:1 There is no exception to the rulers' competence, morality, or even godliness...or lack thereof.
6. 13:1 There is only one limitation: any law requiring disobedience to God's Word (Exodus 1:17, 20; Daniel 3:16-18; Acts 4:18-20, 5:28-29). It is important to note that while refusing, they still showed respect for authority.
7. 13:1 Even persecution is not cause for rebellion but for perseverance (Matthew 10:17-20).
8. 13:1 Civil authority descends directly from God. No human government in history ever existed apart from God. This does not mean they have been or are godly, and they will all answer to God.
9. 13:1 Everything in heaven and on earth, including Satan and his demons, are subject to the Lord God (1 John 5:19; John 12:31; Luke 4:6; Daniel 10). If not, then He is not sovereign; and if He is not sovereign, then He is not God.
10. 13:2 Because government is an institution of God, when we defy authority, we rebel against God.

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