

SERMON STUDY SUMMARY

Romans Part 28 – Glorifying God Through Submitting To Authorities

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INTRODUCTION

What is our responsibility as Christians to those who are in authority over us?

1. **Bless those in authority over you.** Treat them with kindness and respect. See them first as people Jesus loves and died for, people who need the Lord, and only secondly as your governing authority, or your boss or whoever they are to you.
2. **Submit to those in authority over you.** Follow their directives and instructions. Willingly place yourself under those God has placed in authority over you, not out of fear but out of my love for and absolute trust in God. Believe God is able to accomplish His will in your life through those authorities even though you may not understand how God can do that.

Why submit to those in authority?

- a. **because God has established the authorities** for your good. God does not necessarily approve of those in authority, but He is Lord over them. Our God is sovereign, good and just; and He will use even evil and unjust governing authorities to accomplish His good purposes in our lives and in our nation, in His way and in His time. God will also remove evil governors and governments in His time and His way.
- b. **to avoid bringing judgment on yourself.** Your submission to human authority is a reflection of your submission to God.
- c. **to have a clear conscience.** Then you will experience the peace of God and a deep confidence that your faithful obedience to God is accomplishing His good purposes. Your motive for submitting should be reverence for the Lord, not fear.

What if you are living under an unjust authority?

God calls us to submit to the government in all matters EXCEPT when our government instructs us to do something that is contrary to God's law.

If things are wrong at the office, or at home or in government legislation, we should do all we can to make things right. As citizens we should write letters, make phone calls, vote, even get involved in politics if God calls us to. We must do whatever we can to bring change through the legal channels available for change – not by rebellion, revolution, insurrection or noncompliance.

If those in authority don't listen to you and don't make decisions that are honoring to God, UNLESS they demand you disobey God, submit to them anyway. Believe that Jesus is still Lord and that His Kingdom purposes will be accomplished in His way and His time through the authorities that He has established.

3. **Pray for those in authority over you.**

As a church our primary mission is not political. It is to introduce people to Jesus, the only one who can truly change people's hearts and minds and thereby also change families, cities and nations. Pray for those in your sphere of influence and those who are in authority over you. Introduce them to the Jesus you know and love.

If you want a better pastor, pray for the one you already have. That's true not only for pastors but for anyone else in authority over you. If you want to glorify God, then submit to every authority. If you want to worship God authentically, then instead of despising those in authority, bless them. Instead of slandering them, serve them and show Christ's love to them. Instead of peppering them with demands, pray for them and ask God to pour out his favor upon them. And then trust the Lord to do what only He can do.

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What is the most interesting job or position of authority you have ever held? Tell something about how you exercise that authority.
2. How do you show respect to those in authority over you?

UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14; 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

3. What do these passages say about our responsibility to those in authority over us? How can we balance submitting to those in authority over us with standing up for what is right and just?
4. What reasons are given in these passages for submitting to those in authority over us? What does submitting to authority do for us? Look at Romans 13:2 and 5.

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. How can we be intentional in praying for those in authority over us? What difference might this make? What differences have you seen prayer make in your own heart and in those in authority in your life?
6. What effect does submitting to authority and blessing them have on authorities and on others?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Think about a person in authority over you that you may be having difficulty submitting to. Do you criticize them and talk negatively about them? Ask God to reveal to you why you react this way. Then surrender control to God. Know that God placed this authority in your life. How can you pray for them and bless them?

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 13:1-7

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended.⁴ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

1 Peter 2:13-14

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority,¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

This week's writers: Elsa Henderson, Jared Harrison and Jorel Quemuel