



Getting Along With The Government

Romans 13:1-7

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Government is established by God (verse 1)

1. The Christians in Rome were facing certain persecution at the hand of their government. And yet, Paul seems to be saying that they are to voluntarily subject themselves to their government. Certainly that was not an easy choice to make. What do you think they might have struggled with as they made that choice? Are any of these struggles similar to ones we face today?
2. Being subject to governing authority is a choice that we make. In the places where you do life (work, school, community, etc.) are there decisions being made by the government that impact you as a Christian seeking to follow Jesus and to share Him with others? What are these and how are you responding to them?
3. Why is it important for the Roman Christians to know that governing authority exists because it has been established by God? Why might it be important for us to know this?

Government is God's administrator or justice (verses 2-4)

1. What examples does Paul give of government's God given role in our lives?
2. Who are those who need to fear Government? Why?
3. Is it ever permissible for Christians to resist authority? Why or why not? (consider Mark 12:17; Acts 5:29)
4. "Resist" in Greek is related to military term meaning, "to make war against." This seems to go beyond the scope of "civil disobedience." What kind/degree of resistance is appropriate for a Christian?
5. How can we know if we are resisting authority and not also resisting God? (consider that 13:1-7 fit within the context of the section of Romans which began at 12:1,2)

Government is a minister of God (verses 5-7)

1. What reason does Paul give for us to be in subjection to government?
2. What does Paul mean by "for the sake of conscience"? Why is this an important reason for subjecting ourselves to authority?
3. What does it mean that "authorities are ministers of God"?
4. What does Paul tell us to do in verse 7? What might this look like in the places where you do life? (i.e. How might paying taxes be done in a way that demonstrates that authorities are ministers of God? How might you show respect and honor to public officials?)

EXTRA CREDIT

1. Paul's point is not to encourage us to resist the government but how to live in the tension that exists between believers and secular government. Beyond mere "getting along" Paul encourages us to "love on" those in authority over us (paying taxes [salaries], respecting, honoring). Consider Paul's teaching in the context of this section of Romans. How is his teaching here a further demonstration of 12:1,2? How is his teaching here an outworking of 12:19-21?
2. Consider Paul's instructions to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Government should further the purposes of God (1 Timothy 2:4). How might what Paul writes to Timothy and the application of what Paul writes to the Romans shape your response to the government?
3. This week, what steps will you take to "love on" our public officials?
4. Thinking about Christians in areas where they are actively being persecuted for their faith, what might you do this week to support them?