**Romans Series September 3, 2023**

**Submitting to Government Authorities - Romans 13:1-7**

Context

* Written by the apostle Paul in a time of peace (Pax Romana) in the Roman Empire
  + Paul wrote while free (not in prison)
  + He wrote from 56 – 57 AD from Corinth
    - Paul was planting churches and Christianity was gaining converts daily
    - The church was multiplying quickly and vastly across the whole Roman Empire
    - Persecution of Christians was happening, but not yet intense
  + Nero was the Emperor
    - He had GOOD advisors at the time Paul wrote and the empire was prospering as a result
    - Nero would turn from his good advisors not long after Paul wrote Romans!

1. Christians **Willingly Obey** Governmental Entities Romans 13:1-2

* The submission to authorities is because God has **ordained these leaders**
  + He has put them in place for His purposes
    - It would have been hard, in 33 AD, for the apostles to see the purpose of Pontius Pilate as procurator over Judea, yet God used him to put Jesus on the cross to save God’s people from their sins
* Are there any times when Christians do not need to submit to governing authorities?
  + Romans 13:1  
    Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority   
    **except from God**…
    - When governmental laws violate the direct commands of God, the laws of God prevail and the Christian must follow God rather than the governmental decrees

*Are there other passages that correlate to Romans 13:1-7?*

See 1 Peter 2:13-17, 1 Timothy 2:1-3, Titus 3:1

2. Ordered Government is Necessary for **Society to Function**

* Leaders, laws, and enforcement is necessary to keep order
  + God has ordained that these functions be put in place so that the world can function
  + It is one of the ways that God mitigates against evil by working through the structured governmental entities
* When laws are broken (e.g. stealing), punishment is in place for criminals to protect the well-being of society
  + Laws keep criminals activity to a minimum
  + It does not mean we do not have crime (obviously), but it puts in place punishment for those crimes
* Paying taxes is also needed for government to function and keep society functioning

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