



Romans 13:1-7

How Should We Relate With the Government? | Oct. 5 - 11th, 2014

Warm-up: What issues within our nation tend to get you the most fired up? Why? (Don't spend all your time here...this is just the warm up! 😊)

- **Romans 13:1-7** is an important but widely debated section of Scripture with many factors to consider when making application to our modern context. **Read this passage aloud** as well as **1 Peter 2:13-17** and **1 Timothy 2:1-2**, all of which address how we are to relate as Christ-followers with those in authority over us.
 - Paul lived - and wrote this letter - under the totalitarian rule of Rome. One commentator states: *"To people who could be sacrificed for their faith - or for any other reason - on the altar of an emperor's whim, the exhortation to be a 'living sacrifice' found understanding ears."*¹ What conclusions do you make from this? What questions does it raise for you?
- Wrestle together through **Romans 13:1-2**. In what ways are these verses easy to accept? In what ways are they most challenging?
- "The believer's ultimate allegiance is to God. Wherever the demands of secular society clearly violate this higher allegiance, the Christian will act outside the law. This, of course, must not be done in a cavalier fashion."²
 - In your estimation, in what instances is civil disobedience acceptable? (Consider Acts 4:19; 5:29; Exo. 1:17; Josh. 2; 1 Sam. 14:45; 1 Kings 18; Rev. 13:15. For a helpful article: <http://www.gotquestions.org/civil-disobedience.html>)
- As Jesus' followers seeking to live faithfully to God's Word, we concluded that there are attitudes and actions that should characterize our lives when relating with the government: *1. Giving respect and honor to those in authority (v.7b) 2. Paying our taxes (v.6,7) and 3. Participating in the democratic process.* How are these instructive to you personally in this season of your life? What is an action the Holy Spirit is impressing upon you?

Wrap-up: Close by praying for our nation. Pray for those in authority, and that the Lord would help you faithfully respond to this section of Scripture.

¹ Boa, K., & Kruidenier, *Romans*. P.398-400

² Mounce, R.H. *Romans* p. 243