



Week #4: Whoever Wins...Now What?

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Romans 13:1 (NLT)

- God's _____ should impact my _____.

So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. ³ For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. ⁴ The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. ⁵ So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

Romans 13:2-5 (NLT)

- Laws and leaders should be followed for the good of _____ and to _____.

Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

Romans 13:6-7 (NLT)

- Be an _____ and _____ citizen.

Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God’s law. ⁹ For the commandments say, “You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.” These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God’s law.

Romans 13:8-10 (NLT)

- Let all that you do be done in _____.

This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. ¹³ Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don’t participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don’t let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

Romans 13:11-14 (NLT)

- Remove _____ and live in the light/presence of _____.

Do **good things** for the city I sent you to. **Pray** to the Lord for the city you are living in, because if there is **peace** in that city, you will have **peace** also.

Jeremiah 29:7 (ERV)

Discussion Questions

1. How does recognizing God's sovereignty challenge or support your understanding of government and authority in today's world?
2. How do you navigate the balance between submitting to human authority and following God's will, especially when they seem to conflict?
3. What responsibilities come with being an engaged and thankful citizen from a biblical perspective? How do these responsibilities intersect with your daily life?
4. Reflect on a time when you found it difficult to love others. What helped you to show love in that situation, and how can love transform difficult relationships?

Recommended Resources

- [After Party: Toward Better Christian Politics. by Curtis Chang](#) (2024)
- [The Party Crasher: How Jesus Disrupts Politics as Usual and Redeems Our Partisan Divide. by Joshua Ryan Butler](#) (2024)
- [Not in It to Win It. by Andy Stanley](#) (2022)
- [Thou Shall Not Be A Jerk: A Christian's Guide to Engaging Politics, by Eugene Cho](#) (2020)
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- Remove personal darkness and live in the light/presence of Christ.

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(ERV) Easy-to-Read Version