

Romans 13 – God and Government

Three classical columns, likely Corinthian, are arranged in a row against a dark background. Each column is illuminated from above, creating a strong light source at the top of each column and casting a soft glow on the surface below. The columns are fluted and have ornate capitals. The word 'JUSTICE' is centered in front of the leftmost column, 'ORDER' is centered in front of the middle column, and 'PROTECTION' is centered in front of the rightmost column.

JUSTICE

ORDER

PROTECTION

Ted Ohrn – 10/25/2026



When Government Fails

One day, the government shall be on Jesus' shoulders

Isa 9:7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

For now, we pray for the leaders we have

1 Tim 2:1 I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.

2 Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

Pray for leaders → Live peaceful, godly lives → Fulfill Great Commission



Government is from God

Rom 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

Government is from God

Rom 13:5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

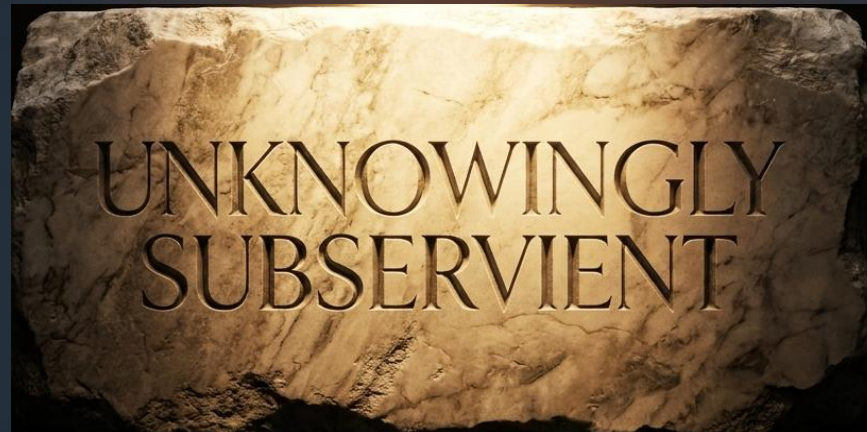
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God Intervenes in the Affairs of Men

Dan 2:20b “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. 21a He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings;

John 19:10 So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.



God Intervenes in the Affairs of Men

Isa 44:28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'

Isa 45:1 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:

God Intervenes in the Affairs of Men

Isa 45:3 I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, **who call you by your name**. 4 For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, **I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me**. 5 I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; **I equip you, though you do not know me**, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; **I am the Lord, and there is no other**.

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God's Purpose for Government

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Designed for Your Good.



PROPER ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Who's Responsible, Biblically?

Education – Parents

Provision – Family, especially fathers

Caring for the poor – Every one of us, plus the Church

Should we Always Obey Government?

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Should we Always Obey Government?

Acts 5:27 The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

1906 - 1945

We must obey God rather than human beings.

- God is sovereign over nations
- Government is for our good.
- Government should not do what God has called us to do.
- We should submit to government, except when it violates God's commands.
- There are times when we must disobey or resist.



Should we Pay Taxes?

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Render what is owed.

← The Tribute / Temporal Duty →



Mat 22:17-21

← The Temple / Avoiding Offense →



Mat 17:24-27

Then vs. Now

1st-Century Rome	America 2026
Emperor's Will	Participatory System
Subject Status	Citizen Status
No Civic Voice	Duty of Civic Voice

Seek the welfare of the city. – Jeremiah 29:7



DIVINE REALITY	EARTHLY DUTY
God ordains governments.	We have an active role to play.
Submit to legitimate authority.	Seek to change and improve the state.
Human systems are generally corrupt.	The city's welfare is my welfare. (Jer. 29:7)
Choices often feel like bad vs. worse.	Maintain peace to preach the Gospel.