




Romans: The Christian and the State

Romans 13:1-7

Ray Cortese, October 6 & 7, 2018

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Hate it or love it?
 - Government
 - Taxes
 - Washington D.C.
 - Supreme Court hearings

Were you alive during the 1960's? How does that decade compare to the current one?

- 2 What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE

- 3 How have you seen a general erosion of respect for authority in our culture? How have you seen it in yourself?

- 4 What does Scripture teach about the source of every authority? Why should Christians neither undermine nor disrespect those in authority? Have you ever been guilty of disrespecting someone with legitimate authority over you?
- 5 Is submission to authority an absolute command in the Bible? Why or why not?
- 6 What role does parenting play in the formation of men and women who rightfully submit to authority? How did your parenting, or how does your parenting, teach submission to authority?

THE MINISTRY OF THE STATE

- 7 In your own words, what is the God given role of the state? What happens when the state does not fulfill that role?
- 8 Jesus said, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and give to God what is God’s”. Can you explain the four models of church/state relationship that Ray mentioned?
- 9 Romans 13:6 says, “the authorities are ministers of God”. Do you, or does someone you know, serve in some area of government? Do you (do they) feel like a minister in your job?

THE OBLIGATION OF THE STATE

- 10 Do you honestly, gladly, and ungrudgingly pay your taxes? If not, what keeps you from doing so?
- 11 How does the Christian view of government differ from that of both the left and the right?
- 12 Do you fawn over politicians? Are you addicted to outrage? Are you too easily offended? Does too much news and/or social media affect you? What truth(s) do you need to remember in order to combat these tendencies?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?