



# Going Deeper

R o m a n s 1 3 : 1 - 7

## Big idea

Because Jesus is Lord over all, believers honor governing authorities as an expression of trust in God's sovereignty, living as faithful citizens while maintaining ultimate allegiance to Christ.

## Sermon recap

### Authority Comes from God (Verses 1-2)

Paul teaches that governing authority is established by God. Submission is rooted not in the goodness of leaders but in God's sovereign rule. Christians obey unless obedience would require disobedience to God's Word.

### Respect Without Worship (Verse 1)

Scripture distinguishes between respecting authority and worshiping authority. Even imperfect rulers remain under God's control, reminding believers that no leader operates outside His purposes.

### Government Restrains Evil (Verses 3-4)


Authorities serve as God's instrument to promote good and restrain wrongdoing. Because God assigns justice to governing authorities, believers are freed from pursuing personal revenge.

### Submission from Conscience (Verse 5)

Christians submit not merely to avoid punishment but to maintain a clear conscience before God. Obedience reflects trust in God's sovereignty rather than agreement with every decision.

### Taxes and Honor (Verses 6-7)

Paul applies submission practically through paying taxes and showing respect. Even under a difficult government, believers honor leaders because their ultimate loyalty belongs to Jesus.

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R o m a n s 13 : 1 - 7

## How to go deeper this week

### Day 1 — God's Sovereignty

**Read:** Romans 13:1; Daniel 4:17

**Reflect:** Do you trust God's control over leaders and nations?

**Pray:** Ask God to strengthen your confidence in His rule.

### Day 2 — Obedience to God First

**Read:** Acts 5:27–29; Daniel 3:16–18

**Reflect:** When might obedience to God require courage?

**Practice:** Identify ways to honor authority while remaining faithful to Scripture.

### Day 3 — Leaving Justice to God

**Read:** Romans 12:19–21; Romans 13:3–4

**Reflect:** Where are you tempted toward resentment or revenge?

**Pray:** Release that situation to God's justice.

### Day 4 — A Clear Conscience

**Read:** Romans 13:5; 2 Corinthians 1:12

**Reflect:** Are your actions motivated by fear or faithfulness?

**Practice:** Choose obedience today as an act of worship.

### Day 5 — Prayer for Leaders

**Read:** 1 Timothy 2:1–2

**Reflect:** Which leaders are hardest for you to pray for?

**Pray:** Ask God to give them wisdom and humility.

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## Practical applications


- **Trust God's sovereignty** — Submission begins with confidence that God is still in control.
- **Honor authority rightly** — Show respect even when you disagree.
- **Reject personal revenge** — Leave justice to God and pursue peace.
- **Obey from conscience** — Let obedience flow from faith, not fear.
- **Pray consistently** — Make prayer your first response to every government.

## Reflection and discussion

1. Why does Paul ground submission in God's sovereignty rather than political agreement?
2. How does Romans 13 connect to the commands in Romans 12?
3. What is the difference between honoring authority and approving of every action?
4. Why is conscience central to Christian obedience?
5. How can prayer reshape your attitude toward leaders?

## Scripture for further study

- 1 Peter 2:13-17 — Honor governing authorities
- Matthew 22:15-22 — Give to Caesar what is Caesar's
- Daniel 2:20-21 — God raises and removes kings
- 1 Timothy 2:1-4 — Pray for leaders
- Philippians 3:20 — Citizenship in heaven

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