

ROMANS

THE PRACTICE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS



SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

GOVERNMENT AND THE GOSPEL

ROMANS 13:1-7

JUNE 21, 2015

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some possible next steps to walk in this truth this week.

- If you're not a member, sign up for the July 25 membership class at yourchurch.com/membership.
- If you're interested in reading more Christianity and politics, check out one of the books on the back section of this guide.
- Write an email or letter thanking an authority in your life (government, church, work, home, coach, etc.) for how they've given time and energy for your good.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- **Parallel passages:** Mark 12:17; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Tit. 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-17; cf. Prov. 8:15; Jer. 29:7; Dan. 2:21, 37-38,
- **Examples of civil disobedience:** Acts 5:27-29; Ex. 1:15-20; Dan. 3:9-18; 6:6-10; Kings 18:4, 13; Joshua 2:3-4.
- **Sermons:** John Piper has a helpful four-part sermon series on the role of government and civil disobedience. desiringgod.org/sermons/by-scripture/romans/13
- **Books:** *Politics* by Wayne Grudem; *City of Man: Religion and Politics in a New World* by Michael Gerson; *The Global Public Square* by Os Guinness.

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

1. What are some ways government and authority work for the good of this world or for the good of individuals?
2. When it comes to authorities, what is the difference between being "subject" to and submitting to authority versus a command to obey authorities? Why might this distinction be important?
3. If you are in a position of authority (government, family, work, church, etc.), how does the way you handle authority portray something about God?
4. **What are some ways you've seen people respond to government in unhealthy or even seemingly unbiblical ways? What are some of the ditches on both sides (too passive or too resistant)?**
5. **In our attitude towards authority, how do we remind ourselves that this is a heart issue or that our response is in part a response to God's authority? Why do we often respond so rebelliously or stubbornly against any authority in our life?**
6. **What are some implications from this text for how you should respond or act towards your government?**
7. Are there any "authority issues" in your life right now? What's part of your struggle and how might this passage speak into it?

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Confess any rebellion in your heart against authority.
- Thank God for the common grace gift of government and authorities that are designed for good.
- Pray for some of your government leaders.
- Pray that God would help you have a right heart-attitude towards authorities in your life.
- If you're in a position of authority, ask God to help you lead well and for the good of others.

NOTES