

The Correct Interpretation Of Romans 13:1-7

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Guest Speaker: Byron Fulk, a local attorney, practicing in Galveston

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Romans 13:1-7 (NIV)

¹ Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended.

⁴ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. What does this passage teach about proper submission to a Secular Government?"

2. a. Look at Exodus 1, Acts 4 and 5, and Daniel 3. Are there Scriptural exceptions to Romans 13, and if so, what are their parameters/limits?

b. Are we limited to the exceptions specifically given in Scripture or are there other areas where we could/should disobey and what are they?

3. Historical examples: American Revolution – Lexington and Concord – rebelling against gun confiscation, unfair taxes; Nazi Germany – Bonhoeffer’s conclusion that he had to plot to assassinate Hitler, Christians hiding Jews from the Government; Brother Andrew (God’s Smuggler) – sneaking Bibles into the soviet Union in direct violation of its laws; Civil War – underground railroad – Christians helping slaves get to freedom.

4. Hypotheticals: If the government orders Churches to hire homosexuals, perform gay marriages, and cover employees for abortion, does the Church comply or resist? If the government orders gun confiscation or a national ID card or an implantable chip or Registration of Church members, does the Church comply or resist?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
