



Obedient Citizens (Romans 13:1-7)

Gospel Community Group Questions:

1. After reading **Romans 13:1-7**, share what one thought stands out as the most important, encouraging, challenging, puzzling or convicting for you. Why?
2. How does the realization that governments are tools used by God in his master plan, change the way you view our governments of today?
3. Why does God allow evil governments to rule, especially when their actions completely contradict the expectations that God has laid out for us in the scripture?
4. Should our submission to current governments be conditional?

Upcoming Events:

- Life and Legacy Planning – (the financial side to less stress, sharing more, & planning accordingly) One hour session with Spencer Nikkel & Cliff Brandes, Tues. Oct. 27th. More info to come.
- Men's retreat at Arlington Beach Camp – Nov. 21-22. \$65/person. More info to come.

Needs:

- If you have a desire and willingness to serve in any area (Grace kids, sound, music, video, greeting), start by filling out our online form here: <http://gracesask.com/serve/>

Get connected:

- Consider partnering with us in this Gospel mission – info packages at welcome table
- Find a Gospel community gathering: Info booklets on the welcome table
- Get on "The City" (our social network). Send your email request to info@gracesask.com or ask your Gospel Community leader to add you.

Got Questions? Email info@gracesask.com or talk to your Gospel Community Leader

1. Government during Paul's time (context)

- Nero was emperor (he executed Paul later in life)
- Jews had been removed from Rome just a few years earlier (Acts 18:2)

2. So why do we submit? (Not "why should we submit?") (verse 3-4)

- The Government was instituted by God to carry out his plans.
- If we submit and obey governments we will have no fear of repercussion. (selfish reasons)
- Because the government is a servant of God, and the purpose of our existence is to glorify God and play our part in his plan

3. What can our submission look like? (verse 6-7)

- Respect and honour, we pay our taxes etc....
- We don't actively protest the government for our own rights and privileges.
- It does not mean that we always obey, we may disobey when the requirements of the government contradict scripture. (Acts 5:27-29) This disobedience however is not opportunity to fight for our rights, we must always offer ourselves as a living sacrifice. (Rom 12)
- These verses are not a rule, but rather the ideal principle to live by (as submission can sometimes be impossible)

4. What should be our motives for submission to government? (Verse 1-2)

- Our love of what Jesus has done for us will motivate us to be a shining light in the community. The authorities should want the Christians in the community to make their community better. (often not the case as Christians have a reputation for protesting authorities)
- Realizing that we have a government that is instituted by God, and yet lost, should motivate us to spread the gospel through how we function in society.
- Paul was a gospel witness the entire time he was in custody, being a tool used by God to redeem the broken government in a broken world. (Acts 26:27-29)
- Our motivation should be the glory of God through the spreading of the Gospel.

~ Quotes ~

"My kingdom is not of this world. My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from this world"
~ Jesus – John 18:36 (ESV) ~

Next Sunday, October 11th: Romans 13:8-14