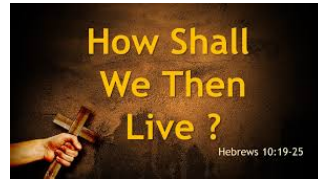


## “How Shall We Then Live?”

### Part 7: “Submitting to Christ ... It’s a Good Thing!”

#### Romans 13:1-14



Introduction: “There is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1)

#### Titus 3:1-2:

**I Peter 2:13-17:** “Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God” (vs. 16).

#### Matthew 22:21:

Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and HIS righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).

*Disciples of Jesus Christ must seek FIRST God’s kingdom at all times, and so much as possible be subject to human authority.*

**Acts 5:27-30:** “We must obey God rather than men” (vs. 29).

### I. Human government has been established by God ...

Since mankind rebelled against God and rejected His authority, God established government to rule over sinful people.

#### I Samuel 8:1-7:

Human government is always under GOD’s authority, whether those in positions of power recognize it or not.

#### Daniel 3:17:

#### John 19:10-11:

Human government has been established by God and has only delegated authority. It has no authority except what GOD has given it.

### II. The proper role of government and the Christian’s response ...

#### Romans 13:3-5:

A major part of the God-given role of government is to punish those who do evil, who break the law.

#### I Peter 2:13-15:

#### Hebrews 13:17:

God established government to bring order out of what would otherwise be chaos due to the sinful, rebellious nature of people!

Government is given the right to “bear the sword,” (Romans 13:4) to execute judgment in order to protect those under their authority from evil.

The authority of human government, from a biblical point of view, is very narrow.

When human government exercises its God-given authority, disciples of Jesus are called to submit by living in obedience.

### III. The improper role of government and the Christian’s response ...

#### Ephesians 6:1:

God does not call us to obey anything that is directly contrary to His clear commands in His Word.

Our Constitution and the “Bill of Rights” were based on the Christian principle of God’s sovereignty as our Creator.

#### Romans 13:8-10:

Loving your neighbor means pointing them to Christ by what you say and by what you do!

#### Romans 13:11-14:

Disciples of Christ are called and sent into the world to be salt and light.

**Ephesians 5:6-16:** “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise, making the best use of the time ...” (vss. 15-16).

**Colossians 3:23-24:** “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord, and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”