

What the Bible Says About Submission to Government
August 25, 2024

Romans 13:1-7

Every person is to be subject to the governing authorities. Why?

- All authority is from God, so if you reject earthly authority, you ultimately reject God.

What does it mean that all authority is from God?

Difference in God's will of decree and God's will of desire.

God's will of desire is his will laid out in Scripture

God's will of decree is God's unchangeable plan that He has been working since day 1.

Read Romans 13:3-7 - Submit. Pay taxes. Do good. Fear God. Show respect. Give honor.

Civil Obedience

1 Peter 2:13-17 - Be subject to every human institution.

1 Peter 1:1 This was written to the elect exiles of the Dispersion, in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This was written to Christians driven away from their homes *by* the government.

Throughout Acts we see Paul and the disciples in jail, being honorable prisoners. They refused to disobey God and continued to worship him, but they were not in rebellion or trying to create an insurrection.

- 1 Peter 3:13-17 - Suffer for doing what is right, not for doing what is wrong.
- 1 Peter 4:12-16 - They would not suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a meddler. Rather, they would suffer as a Christian.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 - They are to pray for their government leaders, without regard for their governmental competence.

- Titus 3:1-2
- 1 Thes. 4:11-12

Jer. 29:7 - "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare."

Civil Disobedience

1. Civil Obedience Does Not Require Obedience to Sinful Laws

They were to obey the government at all times other than any law or command that would require disobedience to God's Word.

Exodus 1:15-17 - The Egyptian midwives feared God and did not murder the babies.

Daniel 1:12-15 - When Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were commanded to eat "from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank," they respectfully refused, because it would have meant defiling themselves by breaking of the Mosaic dietary laws.

Daniel 3:16-18 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 6:7, 10 - Daniel refused to stop praying to God

Acts 4:16-20 - *Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.*

Acts 5:28-29 - *We must obey God rather than men.*

2. Civil Obedience Does Not Mean That Everything That the Government Says is Legal is Actually Righteous