

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

GOD, THE GOVERNMENT, AND ME (Romans 13:1-7)

Talk-it-Over Notes | September 12-13, 2026

REVIEW IT

Romans chapter 13 begins by talking about our relationship to government. The way we relate to our government, and relate to authority, is an indication of our commitment to Christ.

Because 1) Civil Government is instituted by God and 2) Government leaders are servants of God.

Often when we think of government, we think only of Washington D.C. and other world powers. However, In the USA we have city, county, state, and federal governments. While the federal government gets a lot of attention, local government authorities and law enforcement often directly impact our life more than national authorities. Keep that in mind as you discuss & apply this message.

The purpose of government is:

- To protect human life [Gen. 9:6; Deut. 17:2-7; 19:11-13; Exodus 20:13]
- To protect personal and property rights [Exodus 20:14-17]
- To handle disputes between people [Deuteronomy 1:12-17]
- To punish lawbreakers [Romans 13:4; 1 Peter 2:13-15]

What is My Relationship, as a Christian, to Government?

1. I am a citizen of two worlds
2. My primary obedience is to God
3. I am to obey the law whenever possible
 - Because God has established their authority
 - Because I need to maintain a good testimony
 - Because I need to maintain a clear conscience
4. I am to pray for public officials
5. I am to pay taxes required by my government

Spend some time in the Word: Read Romans 13:1-7

TALK ABOUT IT

1. How does understanding that government is instituted by God affect your attitude toward authority, especially when you disagree with leaders or policies?
2. What stood out to you in this message, and why did it capture your attention?
3. Of the five ways a Christian is to relate to government, which is most challenging to you?
4. In what situations might a Christian need to respectfully disobey government, and how can this be done with integrity?

ACT ON IT

Did a clear action step arise for you while reading these verses? Is there a law you're breaking, a tax you're evading, or an authority you are dishonoring? If no clear action step comes to mind, choose one government leader or public official and commit to praying for them each day this week. Consider sending them a brief note of encouragement or appreciation if possible.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take time to ask how you can pray for and support one another in prayer. Then, close in prayer. Take a moment to pray for your government authorities. Pray that they would see themselves as servants of God, so that we can live quiet lives marked by godliness. (1 Timothy 2:1-3)