

**A. AS BELIEVERS WE ARE TO SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES (:1-7)****1. (:1) Be Subject = Submit = Cooperation Based On Trust (Eph. 5:21-22)**

- a. Submission is opposed to “do own thing / follow heart / to thine own self be true”
- b. It’s easy to submit - until you don’t get your way
  - 1) missionary: “I want to go to Russia & tell people about You - not my neighbor”
  - 2) the point of submission is to do what GOD wants - not what I want
- c. Submission is contrary to our rebellious nature
  - 1) cf. Adam & Eve • we want to be our own boss / do our own thing
  - 2) (Romans 9:21) re. potter & clay: “no, not that; I wanna be a flower pot, not coffee cup”
- d. God DOES love you, DOES know what’s best, but He won’t force it on you
  - 1) you have to trust Him, cooperate WITH Him, and put your confidence IN Him - knowing that He works all things together for your good

**2. Trust & Submission Are Not Easy To Learn**

- a. It’s easy to trust God until problems come up - then we freak out, start doing our own thing...
- b. but that’s like saying: “God, I don’t believe You love me - I don’t believe You have my best interest in mind - I don’t believe you’ve got everything under control”
  - 1) Jesus could have felt that way the night He was arrested (i.e. freaked out)
  - 2) but instead He submitted Himself to the governing authorities; who arrested Him, tortured Him, & crucified Him
  - 3) if He hadn’t submitted Himself there would have been no arrest, no torture, no crucifixion, AND no resurrection - no redemption/justification/salvation

**3. God Teaches Us Submission By Putting Us Under The Authority Of Others (:1-5)**

- a. (:1) = God put the authorities in place to teach us submission
- b. (:2) = If you defy the authority God has established, you’re defying God
- c. (:3-5) = Government is not the enemy
  - 1) as long as you’re obeying the laws of the land, there’s nothing to fear (:3)
  - 2) next time you get pulled over by a C.O.P. tell them their God’s servant (:4)
  - 3) if you’re in compliance with the law you not only avoid punishment, but you have a clear conscience (:5)

**4. That Brings Up An Important Question: What If God & Government Conflict? What If The Law Of The Lord & The Law Of The Land Are In Opposition?**

- a. (Daniel 2-3) - dream = Neb’s downfall • Neb sets up idol • Dan ≠ bow down
- b. (Acts 5:27-29)
- c. What if the U.S. government enacted a law against the great commission; you could go to jail for explaining to people how God loved them so much He became one of us, to suffer the consequences of the the sin of every person ever born, and that by putting your faith in Him you could have a personal relationship w/God; a relationship that could only be received as a gift, and could never be achieved by any amount of religious discipline, good works or self-sacrifice?
  - 1) I’d say we have an obligation to violate that law
  - 2) but that doesn’t mean we can ignore every law we don’t like, saying; “I’m a citizen of the kingdom of God, and your laws don’t apply to me”
    - a) re. religious group in OR • no driver’s license
- d. Every one of us would probably do away with the IRS if we could, but the tax laws & enforcement powers of the IRS don’t contradict scripture • in fact...
- e. (:6) no one likes taxes—we all think pay to much—but it’s right thing to do
  - 1) the Jews tried to trap Jesus with a question about taxes (Mark 12:14-17)

f. (:7) As believers we have a responsibility to submit to the governing authorities

**B. WE ALSO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER (:8-14)**

1. (:8-10) The Purpose Of The Commandments Is To Show Us What Love Looks Like

- a. If we sincerely love one another we will not break the commandments
  - 1) you don't murder people you love
  - 2) you don't steal from people you love
  - 3) when you love someone you don't violate the sacred trust between you by being physically intimate w/another person
  - 4) when you love someone you don't covet their possessions
    - a) you don't get envious & jealous of their success
- b. (:10) If we could just love one another the way we love ourselves we'd no more do these things than we would intentionally burn ourselves or cut ourselves, or anything else that would hurt us

2. What Do You Want To Be Doing When The Lord Comes For You? (:11-14)

- a. (:11) Wake up! The time is nearer now than it was - it'll keep getting nearer - until it's here
  - 1) the imminency of the return of the Lord is taught throughout the N.T.
- b. (:12-13) I've never understood those "how far can I go & still be Christian?"
  - 1) how close to this fire can I stand and not be burned?
  - 2) why not see how close to God you can stand?
  - 3) don't live on the edge; just enough J. to be saved, but not enough to be happy
- c. (:14) Put on Jesus Christ • let Him cover you & protect you
  - 1) don't see how close to the edge you can stand without falling in
  - 2) think about Him, learn about Him, get to know Him, draw near to Him