

Romans 13:1-7 **Respect Governing Authorities**

All authority is from God

1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

God's purpose for governing authorities

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. **4** For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

Personal responsibility toward Governing Authorities

5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. **6** For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

All authority is from God

- ✚ Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. [\[Romans 13:1\]](#)
- ✧ Even King Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon stated in his decree when his mind was restored, "That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men. [\[Daniel 4:17\]](#)
- ✧ Speaking of Christ Jesus who is the image of the invisible God, Paul said:
"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." [\[Colossians 1:16\]](#)
- ✧ Since all authority comes from God, whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God.
- ✧ Those who resist will bring judgment upon themselves. [\[Romans 13:2\]](#)
 - ✧ This is evidenced by the judicial judgments that come down through the court system, or the form of government of the land.

God's purpose for governing authorities [\[Romans 13:3-4\]](#)

- ✚ In God's purpose the governmental rulers are to enforce justice in righteousness according to the provisions God revealed in His Law. As such they are to reward good and punish evil.
- ✧ When ruling governments rule in righteous justice, it is most fitting to submit to just laws.
- ✧ When governments become vile, submission to their laws is for your own preservation because they hold the ability to punish you as they see fit.
- ✧ Peter and John said to the ruling authorities, "We ought to obey God rather than men." [\[Acts 5:29\]](#)
- ✧ So Paul advises us to honor the authorities because they are God's ministers for good.

- ✧ If you do evil, be afraid because they do not bear the sword in vain.
- ✧ Righteous governments execute wrath on the ones who practice evil.
- ✧ God's Word gives discernment for what is righteous and what is evil.

Personal responsibility toward Governing Authorities [\[Romans 13:6-7\]](#)

- ✧ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.
- ✧ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.
- ✧ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. [\[Romans 13:7, Matthew 22:15-21, Mark 12:17, Luke 20:25\]](#)