

## In God we Trust: Model Citizens Romans 13:1-7

**Psalm 20:7**, “we trust in the name of the Lord our God.”

**Daniel 4:17**, God “is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth.”

### 1. We submit to our government (13:1a)

“**Be subject** (*hupotasso*) to the governing authorities.”

*Tasso* = to arrange in an organized way.

*Hupo* = “through, from, underneath.”

*Greek Middle voice* = this is a voluntary submission to government.

What makes submission difficult is the presence of sin:

**1 Peter 2:18** Servants *hupotasso* their crooked (*skolia*) bosses

**1 Peter 3:1-2** Wives *hupotasso* their unsaved husbands

The command is to line up under difficult leaders:

**“If we only follow leaders when we agree with them,  
we have never biblically submitted.”**

Faith in God has not been exercised until we force ourselves to follow a leader we disagree with.

The context of Romans 13 is submission to political leadership.

Romans 13 was written when Nero was ruling. He’s the same man who would later execute Paul.

Q: How many are commanded to submit to political leaders?

A: “**Let every person** be subject to the governing authorities.”

### 2. We submit for God’s Sake (13:1b-2)

**(13:1)** All authority in our life has been placed there by God.

Instituted by God does not mean they are all *good* leaders.

(Ex) Nebuchadnezzar (**2 Kings 25**).

**Jeremiah 27:5-8**

“**I have given** all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.”

(Ex) Pontius Pilate (**John 19:10-11**) “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.”

**(13:3)** To resist these authorities is to resist God.

Submission to authority is not weakness but meekness.

**Meekness** (*praotes*) “Inward grace of the soul, calmness toward God in particular. It is the acceptance of God’s dealings.”

**Q: Are you filled with the spirit?**

A: Your attitude and behavior toward leaders give you the answer.

### 3. We submit for Society’s sake (13:3-4)

“For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.”

Government is ultimately for society’s good, not bad.

Anarchy leads to oppression.

**1 Peter 2:13** specifies our submission to governors and emperors.

**(13:4)** Governmental power (*the sword*) is granted by God.

Q: What if the government commands us to do evil?

A: “It is better to obey God than man.” (**Acts 5:29**)

Q: What if government forbids counseling against homosexuality?

What does GOD say? (**Leviticus 20:13; Rom. 1:26-28**).

***Who you obey reveals your Lord.***

### 4. We submit for Conscience’s sake (13:5-7)

“One must be in subjection...for the sake of conscience.”

This verse is part of a larger conversation about Christian maturity which began in chapter 12 (Be transformed).

à Christian maturity is evidenced by submission to leaders.

**(13:6)** Because they are God’s ministers, we pay taxes and revenue.

Paying taxes to government is submission to God’s system.

**Matthew 17:24; 22:21** Jesus paid taxes.

**(13:7)** Both respect and honor are owed to the government.

**Respect** (*phobos*) = Is inward—fear/reverence.

**Honor** (*timé*) = Is outward, to give respect due an office

Paul applied his own teaching in **Acts 22-23**.

After the government broke their own laws striking a bound man in court, Paul called the leader out with an insult (**Acts 23:3**).

**Acts 23:5**, Paul apologized, quoting **Exodus 22:28**.

Paul did not WANT to honor, but he GAVE honor for God’s sake.

### **Q: Were the American colonies in violation of Romans 13 when they revolted in 1776?**

**A: The strongest argument for 1776 was that it was a defensive action.** (21 years, the colonies sought peaceful negotiation). They were met with armed response and the Boston Massacre. They would not fire unless fired upon (which they were).

Outside of extreme cases: Submit. In God we trust.

