

CIVIL AUTHORITY — ROMANS 13:1-7

Brief Summary

¹Let 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. ²Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³For 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. **(Ro.13:1-7)**

Ro.13:1, "Appointed by God"

- God instituted human government to reward good and restrain sin in an evil and fallen world.

Ro.13:2, "resists the ordinance of God"

- Since all government is God-ordained, disobedience is rebellion against God.

Ro.13:3, "not a terror to good works, but to evil"

- Even the most wicked, godless governments act as a deterrent to crime.

Ro.13:4, "God's minister to you for good"

- By helping restrain evil and protecting life and property.

Ro.13:5, "for conscience' sake"

- Any citizen can obey the law because of fear of punishment, but a Christian ought to obey because of conscience.

Ro.13:6, "you also pay taxes"

- If we do not pay our taxes, we show disrespect to the law, the officials, and the Lord.

Ro.13:7, "fear...honor"

- God demands that we show respect and an attitude of esteem for all public officials.