



## REBEL IN AMERICA

ROMANS 13:1-7 \* AUGUST 27, 2023

### BIBLICAL SUBMISSION

ACTS 4:18-20; DANIEL 3:16-18 & 6:3-23

- Christians \_\_\_\_\_ the law — we are called to be good \_\_\_\_\_.
- Biblical submission is neither \_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_ — but it is always \_\_\_\_\_.

### WHAT THE TEXT TEACHES

ROMANS 13:1-7

- ① Earthly authorities are \_\_\_\_\_ of law and order.
  - Earthly governments \_\_\_\_\_ the purposes of God, whether they mean to or not.
- ② Civil obedience allows us to \_\_\_\_\_ God, not people.
  - If we do right, we gain a good \_\_\_\_\_ with those in authority.
- ③ Civil obedience allows us to \_\_\_\_\_ above reproach.
  - To obey \_\_\_\_\_ is to submit to God.

## BASIC UNDERSTANDING

1 PETER 2:11-17; 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

- ① The \_\_\_\_\_ is to advance the \_\_\_\_\_.

### WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO

- If a law is \_\_\_\_\_, obey it.
  - If a law is \_\_\_\_\_, obey it \_\_\_\_\_ willingly accept the consequences.
  - If a law is \_\_\_\_\_, disobey it \_\_\_\_\_ willingly accept the consequences.
- ② God is in \_\_\_\_\_ of who is in \_\_\_\_\_.
    - \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ gets what it deserves.
  - ③ We are to honor the \_\_\_\_\_, not the person.

### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. What comes into your mind when you hear the word authority?
2. Read Romans 13:1-7. What is Paul's view of authority and those who exercise it? What are some reasons Paul gives for submitting to those in authority?
3. Do you think it is ever appropriate to resist rather than to submit to the governing authorities? Explain.
4. In what ways are a Christian's responsibilities in a democratic republic the same as those of a Christian in an authoritarian state? In what ways are his responsibilities different?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:11-17. How do you think the phrase, "for the Lord's sake" in verse 13, should affect the way we submit to authorities? Explain in your own words the motive verse 15 gives for submitting to authorities. How should being "free men" (verse 16) affect how we submit? How do you think being "slaves of God" (verse 16) should affect the way we submit to people?
6. You are a citizen with rights to vote and influence decisions, but you are subject to all laws as long as they are in effect. Think of a current issue that's important to you. How might you submit, honor, and live as a free person and God's servant with regard to the issue?