

## “Subject to Governing Authorities”

### A Study of the Book of Romans

Pastor Tim Allen

**Key Truth:** The governing authorities are instituted by God for our good and his glory, and therefore, require our submission as an act of submission to God.

Government is not a “necessary evil” but a gift to sinful man by a loving God for our good and protection. If we must resist, let it be for Scriptural reasons and let it be the exception rather than the rule. The exception is when government seeks to force you to make a choice between obeying them and obeying God. When the Jewish ruling council forbade Peter and the apostles from preaching or teaching Christ, they said, “We must obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29 ESV). Of course, this takes wisdom and understanding (Colossians 1:9-14).

## DISCUSS

Read **Romans 13:1-7** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “**Subject to Governing Authorities.**”

## DIG IN

### 1. Delegated Authority (Romans 13:1-2)

What are examples of “governing authorities” (“higher powers”)?

In what ways is this authority limited and temporary? In what ways is it good?

### 2. Functional Authority (Romans 13:3-4)

What are the two functions of government (see 1 Peter 2:13-14)?

In what ways should government carry out these two functions? What are some times when government fails to carry out either of these functions? What should we do in these circumstances?

In what ways does/should the church benefit from these functions?

### 3. Ultimate Authority: God (Romans 13:5-6)

According to verse 5, what are the two reasons we should be subject to governing authorities? Describe these.

### 4. Responsibility to Authority (Romans 13:7)

According to verse 7, what are our responsibilities to government?

In what ways do these responsibilities constitute subjection to governing authorities?

In what situations would it be necessary to disobey governing authorities?

## DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?