
Romans: Theology 101

“Render to Caesar”

Romans 13:1-7

05-24-20

Introduction: Paul is in the midst of a very practical section. He is explaining how we as followers of Christ should conduct our lives. As we come to chapter 13 he focuses on our responsibility as citizens.

1. This was a serious issue in the 1st century.
 - The Jews tended to be anti-Roman.
 - Christians worshipped Christ as Savior & King
 - Both Christians & Jews practiced separation from the immorality of Roman culture.
2. For the Romans, guidance was even more urgent because they lived in Rome.
3. For us, it is an equally important issue.
 - We want to protect our testimony before the world.
 - We are privileged to have a participatory system of government where we can influence legislation.
4. As we understand Paul’s teaching here, we can be the kind of citizen God wants us to be.

I. Submit to Governmental Authority

A. Submission is Commanded

B. Submission is Reinforced

II. Practice Responsible Citizenship

A. Purpose of Government

B. Power of Government

C. Privilege of Government

Conclusion: What we have here is God’s ideal.

1. Before you question Paul’s teaching, realize he lived under Roman rule.
2. Our “yeah buts” can’t compare.
3. We should not be surprised by imperfect government; sin has infected everyone & everything.
4. God can use even imperfect government for His purposes.
5. No matter how bad or good the government is, our responsibility doesn’t change.
6. I believe Christians should be the best citizens.
7. We can be that citizen by loving God, loving our neighbor, obeying the law, paying our taxes & being an informed voter.