

Scripture this week:

Romans 13:1-7

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Candidates from God: Should the Church Be Fully Involved or Stay Out of it Completely?

Romans 13:1-7

Todd Chapman - June 13, 2021

- **Understanding the "separation of Church and State"**
- **God's role for the government**
- **How we believe Jesus would have us respond**

Notes:

Life Group Discussion Questions

The Church and Politics
For the week of June 13, 2021

Getting Started

1. Why do you think talking about politics in the church is so difficult? Do you tend to enjoy or dislike talking about or engaging in politics?
2. Do you think evangelical Christians nowadays tend to be overly involved or not involved enough in governmental concerns? Why?
3. What is your perspective on how Christians should relate to the government?

Digging into the Text

4. Read Romans 13:1-7 and respond:
 - How does Paul say Christians should relate to the government (and other leaders in positions of authority)? Why?
 - What are the major purposes of the government?
 - Summarize the main idea of this passage.

Applying It to My Life

5. Assess your attitude to those currently in positions of authority in our government. Are you respecting, honoring, and praying for them appropriately as "the servant of God" or do you tend to be negative or disrespectful if you don't like their viewpoints?
6. What is a step you can take to be in a proper submission to our political leaders and be a light for Christ in our civic society?
7. How can the group be praying for you as we all desire to be salt and light in this broken world?