

Introduction

? What did Jesus' response indicate about His belief regarding the responsibilities of citizenship?

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? How have you found to be the best way to enter into discussion about religion and politics while keeping the conversation civil and respectful? Why is that particularly important for a Christian?

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? What are some markers that you would expect to see in a person's life that is a "good citizen"? Describe the last time you saw one of those markers lived out in front of you? How did it impact you?

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1. The Only Source of True Authority (Romans 13:1-2)

? Consider Paul's direction to live in submission to governing authorities. Where in your life is that most difficult to do? What influence does Paul's explanation of those authorities' source of power have on your decisions as a citizen?

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? How would you say the current culture's opposition compares to the opposition from the Roman Empire? Why do you think so? How does that color your understanding of what Paul was directing his original audience to do?

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2. Be Subject and Have No Fear (Romans 13:3-5)

? Describe an episode in which a person's public persona aided them in dealing with an issue with governmental ties. How did that person's public persona impact his or her experience? What gospel impact or gospel conversation are you aware of from that incident?

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What feelings do you experience when you read of rulers being used by God as instruments of justice?

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### 3. Perform Your Civic Duty (Romans 13:6-7)



How naturally do you associate governmental leaders with “God’s servants”? How does the example of Nebuchadnezzar help your understanding?

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How does a believer’s required response to governmental authorities change when those authorities attempt to press believers into violating their belief in God? How does the difference between submission and obedience guide that response?

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### Conclusion



Who are the governmental authorities that exercise the most influence over your life? How do you pray for them regularly? How would you rate the specificity of your prayers?

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How does it change your perception of government to read the number of times that Paul refers to those leaders as God’s servants? How would you say you need to respond when you disagree with those leaders?

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Why do you think God’s appointment of political leaders can seem like such a conflict of ideals? Consider a candidate that you’ve not agreed with; how does that change your answer?

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### Daily Readings

- Monday - Genesis 2:18-25

- Thursday - Titus 2:1-8

- Tuesday - Genesis 5:1-2

- Friday - Deuteronomy 22:5

- Wednesday - Romans 1:22-23

- Saturday - Galatians 3:28