



Pastor Scott Archer 11.06.2016*
Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Who's In Charge Here? Romans 13:1-7

Central Passage

Romans 13:1–7 (ESV) — **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.

Central Thought: Relax in God's sovereignty and work for God's glory.

On Submitting to Authority...

- ❖ All earthly authority is established by and flows from God's authority. (Rom. 13:1)

John 19:11 (ESV) — **11** Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above..." (Jesus' words to Pontus Pilate).

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- ❖ Unwarranted resistance of governmental authority is tantamount to rebellion against God. (Rom. 13:2)

Mark 12:17 (ESV) — **17** Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

- ❖ We are called to fully and financially support government authorities as God's ministers of justice and judgement. (Rom. 13:3-7)

1 Timothy 2:1–3 (ESV) — **1** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior...

- ❖ Obedience to God's commands trumps obedience to faithless authority.

Acts 5:27–29 (ESV) — **27** And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, **28** saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." **29** But Peter and the apostles answered, "**We must obey God rather than men.**"

- We must be willing to bear the consequences, for the sake of the gospel, of standing up against unjust authority.

John 18:11 (ESV) — **11** So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

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