

Getting Started

1. Do you enjoy talking about politics with other people? Why or why not?
2. What is your general attitude to authority? Do you have a problem with people in authority? Do you submit willingly?
3. Have you ever said “no” to an authority figure? Why or why not?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. **Belgic Confession Article 36: The Civil Government**

We believe that because of the depravity of the human race, our good God has ordained kings, princes, and civil officers. God wants the world to be governed by laws and policies so that human lawlessness may be restrained and that everything may be conducted in good order among human beings. For that purpose God has placed the sword in the hands of the government, to punish evil people and protect the good. And the government's task is not limited to caring for and watching over the public domain but extends also to upholding the sacred ministry, with a view to removing and destroying all idolatry and false worship of the Antichrist; to promoting the kingdom of Jesus Christ; and to furthering the preaching of the gospel everywhere; to the end that God may be honored and served by everyone, as he requires in his Word. Moreover everyone, regardless of status, condition, or rank, must be subject to the government, and pay taxes, and hold its representatives in honor and respect, and obey them in all things that are not in conflict with God's Word, praying for them that the Lord may be willing to lead them in all their ways and that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all piety and decency. And on this matter we reject the Anabaptists, anarchists, and in general all those who want to reject the authorities and civil officers and to subvert justice by introducing common ownership of goods and corrupting the moral order that God has established among human beings.

Do you agree with everything stated in this article? Explain.

6. Read Mark 12:13-17 and Romans 13:7. What do these passages mean?
7. Daniel 3:8-30 is the account of Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego openly disobeying a government leader. Was their willingness to go against the decree the correct response?
8. In 1 Peter 2:13-17 we are implored to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord. How does this apply to Romans 13:1-7 and what is the intended outcome?

Application

9. All governing authority has been instituted by God, but that does not mean that all leaders are doing God’s will. We must submit to governing authorities because that is what God calls us to do, but we must obey God in everything because we are his people. How are you submitting to our governing authorities? How are you obeying the Lord?

Praying Scripture

Ephesians 1

16I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, **17**that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **18**having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, **19**and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might **20**that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21**far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **22**And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, **23**which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · April 30, 2017

The Gospel: Class is in Session

“Yes, but...”

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.

Romans 13:1

- **As Christians, we are to _____ ourselves to our _____ authorities.**

- **God is our _____ and we are to _____ him above all else.**

Topics: Government, authority, submission