

Here are some questions to consider as you study Romans 13:1–7:

- Here Paul turns to the Christian’s relationship to the State, and he gives one foundational command. What does he tell the Roman church? (Hint: Look at verse 1a.)
 - Without considering the rest of this passage, what additional thoughts would *you* give? When does this apply? When does it not?
 - There are many who would prefer that Christians leave their faith in Christ out of our social and political involvement. Is that possible? Is that what verse 1 is telling us?
- What do you make of verse 1b (“For there...”)? Are there any governing authorities beyond God’s jurisdiction? (This is easy to affirm when we think of “good” leaders, but what about the ones opposed to God’s law?)
- There are obviously exceptions (even in the Bible) to complete obedience to the State, particularly when disobeying the Lord is the alternative. But what is the overall force of this passage? What’s the “big idea”?
 - Bottom line: Christians ought to be subject to the State. What does that look like? Do we do that well? (Don’t just think about the leaders we approve. What about when we’re opposed to a leaders’ policies?)
 - Read 1 Timothy 2:1–2. How does this help flesh out what it means to be subject to the government?
- If you are a Christian, this world is not your home. At the same time, you cannot simply ignore your relationship to the kingdom(s) of this world as this passage attests.
 - How is that truth freeing?
 - Read 1 Corinthians 7:29–31. This passage speaks about marriage mainly, but Paul does address how tightly Christians should hold onto the things of this world: dealing “as though they had no dealings with it” (v31). How can you rightly value government and politics and social involvement without taking it too seriously?