



# Subject to Authority



Romans 13:1-17



September 27, 2020

## Review the Passage

- **Read** the passage aloud.
- How does **context** affect the meaning of the passage (other passages or historical contexts)?
- What do you notice about the passage **structurally**?
- What in the passage reveals the the **tone** of the passage?

**List 1-2 main truths from the passage:**

**In which ways are we to submit to governing authorities?**

**How is this passage connected with the gospel of Jesus Christ or other passages throughout the Bible?**

## APPLICATION DISCUSSION

- To which governing authorities or policies do you find it most difficult to subject yourself? How does this passage help or guide you?
- What is the popular thinking about subjection to authorities in your context?
- What is the criteria for a Christian **disobeying** governing authorities?
- What questionable policies or procedures have governing authorities mandated in light of Covid19 which we might **disobey** (broadly in America or locally)?
- Give examples of how a conversation about government or governing authorities could turn into a gospel conversation with a non believer.

## PRAYER GUIDE

- Remember 1 Timothy 2:1-7.
- Name governing authorities (local and beyond) to pray for.
- Pray for strength to keep God's commands.
- Pray for each other's needs or requests.

# GUIDE FOR REVIEWING THE PASSAGE

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## Structure of the Passage

- Beginning and end
- Repeated words or phrases
- Questions and answers
- Conjunctions (for, therefore, so, and, yet, nor, but, etc)
- Progression (greater to smaller, etc).
- Metaphors / similes / word pictures / illustrations
- Quotations from other passages
- Rhetorical questions
- Genre of book or passage (narrative, epistle, song, parable, etc)
- Places, names, historical events, etc

## Tone

Is the author angry, gentle, forceful, sorrowful, excited, thoughtful, etc? How would this text be communicated in person? And how does the tone affect the meaning of the passage?

## Connecting to the Gospel of Jesus

The good news is that God loves sinners and has sent Jesus to die in our place, that he raised Jesus from the dead, and that eternal life is offered to all who trust in Christ for forgiveness of sin. The gospel, like a diamond, has many facets which make up its beauty. Consider how your passage connects to a particular facet of the gospel. Here are a few to consider:

- We are adopted as **sons** (Ephesians 1)
- In Christ we have an **inheritance** (Ephesians 1)
- we are **citizens** in Christ's **kingdom** (Colossians 1)
- we are **saved** from God's **wrath** (Romans 3).
- We are **justified** grace through Jesus' blood (Romans 3).
- We are **regenerated** by **grace** and **mercy** (Titus 3).
- We have the **indwelling spirit** as a guarantee (Ephesians 1)

## The Aim of the Passage

What does the author the passage expect from the audience? To **know** something? To **do** something? And what precisely does he want his audience to know or do?