

Submitting to God's Delegated Authority

Romans 13:1-7

March 26, 2023

Americans have been rebelling against authority since the 1700's.

Have received the God's mercy we relate differently to all of life.

How do the church and the state relate?

The Command: Be subject to the Governing Authorities. v 1a

Submit - we don't like that word.

The Reason: They are God's Delegated Authorities. v 1b

God sets up Kings and Rulers, they have their authority from him.

The Conclusion: If you Resist them, you Resist God. v 2

There are Biblical examples of civil disobedience.

But the rule is submission (Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14; Matt 22:17-22).

Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

What is the authority that is telling us to submit?

What are the exceptions?

When the State is commanding what God forbids
When the State forbids what God has commanded.

The Hebrew Midwives, Esther, Daniel, Peter, etc.

The Purpose of Civil Government

They defend, maintain order, punish crime, commend well-doing.

Belgic Confession 36

Civil authority bears the sword.

Power of coercion; the authority to enforce.

The Reason to Obey, v 5

- 1) To avoid punishment.
- 2) To preserve conscience.

So, submit as far as you possibly can.

Pay your taxes, you honor God when you do so.