

# ROMANS

## TRANSFORMED!

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MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH, DAN GILLETTE

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The Gospel goes public: how Christians relate to government authority

Our Context: God's mercy prompts whole-hearted cooperation with God in a life transforming process

**Rom. 12:1-2**...by the mercies of God...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God...be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God...

**Rom. 8:28-29** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to **his purpose**. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined **to be conformed to the image of his Son...**

1. God's mercy in the gospel is for everyone and must become our #1 life priority.

**Rom.11:32** For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

2. Through the gospel we have a new way of relating to all people

**Rom. 12:17** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.  
**18** If possible...live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves,... **20** To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink... **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Paul explains God's "good, pleasing and perfect will" regarding our civic responsibility

1. God determines and delegates all ruling power for his good purposes

**Rom. 13:1** 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. Rebellion against God's delegates is opposition against God's good purpose

**Rom. 13:2** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

3. God authorizes Government for a dual task:

**Rom. 13:3a** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.

- to commend civic virtue ...

**Rom. 13:3b-4a** 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.

- ... and to punish law-breakers

**Rom. 13:4b** 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.

### Paul summarizes & applies the meaning of our subjection to our government (5-7)

1. He summarizes our two core reasons for subjection (5).

**Rom. 13:5** Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

2. He explains what our subjection looks like (6-7).

**Rom. 13:6** 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.

### Concluding issues:

1. Should Jesus' people ever disobey their government? Yes!

**Acts 4:18** So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge,

**Dan. 3:28** Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

2. How did Jesus relate to the Roman government?

3. What issue must dominate our thinking in this area? The spread of the gospel!

**1Tim. 2:1** 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, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

4. Under all circumstances we must do our duty toward our government in action & attitude!

### SONGS

"Found In You" - Paul Baloche, Andi Rozier Paul Baloche, Andi Rozier

"I Am Set Free" - Leslie Jordan

"Good Good Father" - Anthony Brown, Pat Barrett

"Who You Say I Am" - Ben Fielding, Reuben Morgan

### BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$24,768.00  
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$732,708.00  
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$734,559.00