



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Being Subject to Government

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Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

The Epistle of Paul to the Romans (A.D. 56) is a letter that Paul, a follower of Jesus Christ, a Jewish Pharisee, a Roman citizen and the apostle to the Gentiles, wrote from Corinth to all the believers in Rome. Paul's letter to the Romans is rich in doctrine and provides practical instruction for daily Christian living. Paul, in the 13th chapter of his letter to the Romans, addresses the relationship of people to government or governing authorities.

“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.” (Romans 13:1NASB)

All people are to be in subjection to governing authorities. While Paul is writing to the believers in the Roman church, he is declaring that all people, Jews and Gentiles are subject to governing authorities or government leaders. While believers are citizens of a heavenly kingdom and the duties and accountability are spiritual, they also have a citizenship on earth and the duties and accountability are civil or secular.

Paul not only shares that all are in subjection to government, but in addition that believers need to pray for governing authorities. In his letter to Timothy, *“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim 2:1-4)*

The apostle Peter also makes a similar declaration: *“Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.” (1Pt. 2: 13, 14)*

The words, in subjection, are used to describe a Gk. word referencing, to place in order or in subordinate to another. Scripture makes an exception to this command when obedience to a governing authority would require disobedience to God's Word (Da 3: 16-18; Acts 4:18-31; 5:17-29).

Who instituted government authority?

No authority, except from God and established by God. God established a number of institutions on earth: the family, the church, and the government. Civil government is a means ordained by God for maintaining order in a community or society.

As Creator, God is the ultimate authority for His creation and He alone is the sovereign ruler of the universe. (Ps62:11; 103:19 & 1Ti 6:15).

OT scripture declares; *“It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding.” (Da 2:21)*

Believers are to submit themselves to governmental authorities for the very simple reason that they are ordained by God.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you place yourself in subjection to governing authorities?
- Do you pray for government leaders?
- Have you placed your spiritual and ultimate subjection under God through Jesus Christ?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44