

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. Romans 13:1-5 (NLT)

Submit

That is not a popular word. That has not been a popular word in society. That has not been a popular word for you. What word are walking talking about? **We are talking about the word submit. Tell me why the word submit is not a popular word to many.** People want to do what they want to do, when they want to do it. People want to live life as they see fit. They don't want anyone telling them what to do. Advice is generally rejected. Firm direction, rules and laws are most unwelcome. Governing authorities are even despised in society today. People who enforce the laws that are meant to protect us often come under ridicule and scorn. It has gotten so bad that law breakers are called good and law enforcers are called bad. **Is this a wise way to think? Is this a healthy way to act? Who has put governing authorities in place? Who has established laws to protect society?** It is foolish to not submit to authority and to fail to obey laws. It is dangerous. It is reckless. It is very unwise. I know that governing authorities are put in place by you. Governing authorities are meant to be your servants. I know that laws have been established by you to protect society. If I were to step out from under authority and go about breaking laws, I would be living a dangerous life that would be headed for disaster. I know authority and laws are in place for my protection. I also know that if I rebel against authority, I am also rebelling against you. **That is true. That is wise. That is certain.** So, I will submit myself to you. I will submit myself to authority you have placed over me. I will follow the laws that have been established for my good. Then I will have nothing to fear from the authorities you have placed over me. Then I will have your protection. Then I will live with a clear conscience. **Yes, you will. Living this way will be very good. It is my will and plan for you.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I will submit myself to the governing authorities. I will follow the laws that have been established to govern society. I know you have put authorities in place to be your servants, to act for you. I know authorities are also acting on my behalf, for my good. Amen

Promises

To Do You Good

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

NIV

Romans 13:1-5

Promises

Sent For Your Good

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

NLT

Romans 13:1-5

Promises

For Your Good

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience.

NRSV

Romans 13:1-5

Promises

For Your Good

LET EVERY person be loyally subject to the governing (civil) authorities. For there is no authority except from God [by His permission, His sanction], and those that exist do so by God's appointment. Therefore he who resists *and* sets himself up against the authorities resists what God has appointed *and* arranged [in divine order]. And those who resist will bring down judgment upon themselves [receiving the penalty due them]. For civil authorities are not a terror to [people of] good conduct, but to [those of] bad behavior. Would you have no dread of him who is in authority? Then do what is right and you will receive his approval *and* commendation. For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, [you should dread him and] be afraid, for he does not bear *and* wear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant to execute His wrath (punishment, vengeance) on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only to avoid God's wrath *and* escape punishment, but also as a matter of principle *and* for the sake of conscience.

AMP

Romans 13:1-5

Promises

For Good

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. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. Romans 13:1-5 (NASB)

NASB

Romans 13:1-5

Promises

For Your Good

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. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. 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. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

ESV

Romans 13:1-5

Promises

For Good

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

NKJV

Romans 13:1-5

Promises

To Your Advantage

Be a good citizen. All governments are under God. Insofar as there is peace and order, it's God's order. So live responsibly as a citizen. If you're irresponsible to the state, then you're irresponsible with God, and God will hold you responsible. Duly constituted authorities are only a threat if you're trying to get by with something. Decent citizens should have nothing to fear. Do you want to be on good terms with the government? Be a responsible citizen and you'll get on just fine, the government working to your advantage. But if you're breaking the rules right and left, watch out. The police aren't there just to be admired in their uniforms. God also has an interest in keeping order, and he uses them to do it. That's why you must live responsibly—not just to avoid punishment but also because it's the right way to live.

MSG

Romans 13:1-5

Promises

To Help You

Obey the government, for God is the one who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow. For the policeman does not frighten people who are doing right; but those doing evil will always fear him. So if you don't want to be afraid, keep the laws and you will get along well. The policeman is sent by God to help you. But if you are doing something wrong, of course you should be afraid, for he will have you punished. He is sent by God for that very purpose. Obey the laws, then, for two reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you know you should.

TLB

Romans 13:1-5

Promises

To Help You

All of you must yield to the government rulers. No one rules unless God has given him the power to rule, and no one rules now without that power from God. So those who are against the government are really against what God has commanded. And they will bring punishment on themselves. Those who do right do not have to fear the rulers; only those who do wrong fear them. Do you want to be unafraid of the rulers? Then do what is right, and they will praise you. The ruler is God's servant to help you. But if you do wrong, then be afraid. He has the power to punish; he is God's servant to punish those who do wrong. So you must yield to the government, not only because you might be punished, but because you know it is right.

NCV

Romans 13:1-5

Sent For Your Good

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – Romans 13:1-5

In Context: *Read Romans 13*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I will submit myself to the governing authorities. I will follow the laws that have been established to govern society. I know you have put authorities in place to be your servants, to act for you. I know authorities are also acting on my behalf, for my good. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How willingly do you submit yourself to authority that God has placed over you?

When have you foolishly rebelled against the authority God placed over you?

Why is rebelling against authority and the laws of society also rebelling against God?

How has God protected you and brought order in society through people He has placed in authority?

Why will you have nothing to fear from authorities over you if you obey the laws of society?

Why will submitting to authority and following the laws of society help you to have a clear conscience?

What responsibility do those who are in authority have to think, speak and act according to God's will?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Submit to governing authorities and the laws of society as an act of obedience to God.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that God has put authorities and laws in place to bring order in society.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how authorities and the laws of society have protected your life.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you submit to the authority God has placed over your life.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will submit to the authority you have placed over my life.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I submit to the authority you have placed over my life today?
