

**July 29, 2018**  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**The Politics Of Jesus: Episode 2**  
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**Romans 13:1-7**

*Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup>Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup>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 you will be commended. <sup>4</sup>For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. <sup>6</sup>This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup>Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.*

**Politics are ultimately about three things, governance, law and power and history has taught us that power unchecked corrupts.**

- History has shown that neither the church nor the secular world possess the ability to manage absolute power in the political arena.

**What then is or should be the role of the Christ follower in politics?**

- God is calling believers to influence all streams of culture.
  - **Philippians 4:22** *All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.*
  - **Paul appeals to Caesar: Acts 25:11b** *But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.*

**Question: Is Romans 13 implying Christ followers should obey and submit to all authorities?**

- **Vs. 3** *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 you will be commended. <sup>4</sup>For the one in authority is God's servant for your good.*
  - **This scripture is referring to the godly leaders to whom God has given authority.**
    - Key "For those who do right."

- **Christian resistance to ungodly authority is abundant in the scriptures.**
  - **Daniel 6:10** *Daniel always prayed to God three times every day. Three times every day, he bowed down on his knees to pray and praise God. Even though Daniel heard about the new law, he still went to his house to pray. He went up to the upper room of his house and opened the windows that faced toward Jerusalem. Then Daniel bowed down on his knees and prayed just as he always had done.*
  - **Acts 5:29** *Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!"*

**For the believer, all politics then are to be filtered through the lens of scripture and applied through the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

- **Galatians 5:16 & 22-23** *So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 22-23 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

**Food for the journey:** Use these questions for deeper discussion and reflection in personal study or in one of our small groups.

1. Paul says that when we live by the Spirit we live beyond the law. Paul is saying that by living according to the Spirit that we have the ability to transcend law, which is what politics ultimately are. How would this understanding change your politics?
2. How "should" believers bring change in the world and how much of that should be focused on the political level?
3. How do we filter our politics through scripture?
4. Daniel defied the law and prayed 3 times per day as he always had done. At what point would you defy the law?
5. Where is there injustice in the world that you could right?