

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Saturday, December 17th

Donations, service opportunities and family recommendations at the Welcome Center

www.ourelement.org/cfk

WOMEN'S ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30pm

Sign up and get more details at:
women@ourelement.org

CHRISTMAS EVE

Services: 7, 9 & 11pm

Childcare at 7pm only.

No Sunday services on
Christmas Day.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Do you have a *What in the World?* question you'd like us to answer?

Ask us at: www.ourelement.org/what?

or via this QR Code with your phone:



SEVEN SUBMITTING TO THE GOVERNMENT — ROMANS 13:1-7 —

ROMANS 13:1-7	DANIEL 3, 6	ROMANS 12:2	ACTS 22-25
LUKE 2:1-3	ACTS 4:19-20	1 CORINTHIANS 13	ROMANS 13:8
HEBREWS 4:15	ACTS 5:29	ACTS 18:2	ROMANS 12:21
ROMANS 12:14-21	ACTS 6:35-40	ROMANS 12:17-18	

SEVEN SUBMITTING TO THE GOVERNMENT

— ROMANS 13:1-7 —

Today's message deals with issues of government's authority and how we as believers can respond from a place of respect and honesty. Please take the time to walk through and answer the discussion questions this week.

In the message today you learned that there is a difference between:

Roles verses people: Roman 13:1 is first referring to roles and not people. Paul is giving general principles, not writing about specific rulers. He is giving methods on how to honor those placed in authority over us.

Subject and Obey: "Subject to" does not always mean "obey." Paul says that we should be subject to our government not only because we fear punishment if we break the law, but also because we fear God, who knows our hearts. John Calvin in his commentary about these verses says that throughout the scriptures "*God uses wicked rulers as His scourge to punish the sins of the people*"...including HIS people.

Obedience and civil disobedience: Sometimes civil disobedience is the only biblical response. Paul is giving a general principle, not addressing all the confusing situations that sin creates. What happens when the government commands us to do something that is disobedient to God's Word? The answer is, we must resist the government and obey God...ALWAYS!

Extortion and taxes: We should pay our taxes. Paul did not want the believers he was writing to, to be associated with rebellion because it would make it difficult for Paul to spread the gospel.

INTRODUCTION

Try and keep a level head this week. Remember if someone disagrees with you it is not because they are stupid, chances are it's because they care about different things passionately.

DISCUSSION

What are some historical examples of successful protesting of the government?

What are some examples of non-successful protesting of the government?

When are times that you will need to submit and when are times that you will need to object to government?

EXPLANATION

Read and think about Romans 13:1-7...then read Verses 8-10

How does the law of love (v. 10) apply to our relationship with God?

What does love command, and what does it prohibit?

When we are saved by grace, why is important that we "behave decently"?

1. On what biblical grounds would you argue in favor of or against the American Revolution?
2. Some argue that it is wrong for Christians to protest at abortion clinics or at civil rights marches. Others argue that it is wrong not to do these things. What is your view and why?
3. To what extent (if any) is it right to use satire, sarcasm, or ridicule toward government leaders in view of Romans 13:7?
4. California recently voted to uphold the death penalty. What Scriptures support capital punishment? Should any crimes other than murder be subject to the death penalty?

APPLICATION

How does Jesus bring unity in times of such division?

MISSION

Go out for a meal with someone you passionately disagree with, don't argue with them just try to understand their position.