

The Message Notes

Series: Human History - Biblical Perspective

Message: *Godly Authority II*

Text: Romans 13:1-3

Pastor Keith (November 28, 2021)



Romans 13:1 (NLT). Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. **2.** So, anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted and they will be punished. **3.** 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.

Command: Everyone **must submit** to governing authorities.

Why: 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**.

Objective: To understand how we **honor** God's **authority** by **submitting** to **imperfect** authorities established by and led by fallen humanity.

PT1. God owns **all** authority.

- a) God's authority is **sovereign**, Jeremiah 18:3-6
- b) God's authority is **inherent** as the creator and owner of the earth, Psalms 24:1.
- c) God's authority **upholds** the order of the **universe**, Hebrews 1:3
- d) God's authority is **judicial**, and it **equally** applies to everyone, outlining the **rules of behavior** and the **penalty for disobedience**, Matthew 4:4
- e) God's authority rules in **every place**. There is no place you can go in the **visible** world and **invisible** world that is **outside** of God's authority, Psalms 139:8.
- f) God's authority is worthy of our **worship**, Psalms 33:6-9.
- g) God's plan is to bring everything in heaven and earth under the authority of Christ, Ephesians 1:10.

PT2. Establishing nations, civil authorities, and governments

a) **Nations** are instituted by God (languages and boundaries), Genesis 11:7-8, Deuteronomy 32:8

In creation, God **decentralized** his **authority equally** among all **humanity** because all humanity is created in His image. He established the following three institutions:

- a) Individuals – Matthew 22:37-40
- b) Family – Genesis 1:28, 2:24
- c) Church – Matthew 28:18-20

Humans cannot **govern** another human without their **consent** or by the **institutions** God has established. Institution of the individual means **all** individuals are endowed by God with **inalienable** rights and **obligated** by covenant to remain constrained to live within those rights, Genesis 2:15-17.

God's institutions of nation, family, and church allow the institution of the individual be governed by the following three ways:

- Born into (subject by birth or adoption)
- Governed by covenant or constitution
- Pre-defined legal relationships

God's Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, and Israel covenants were born into, governed by covenant or constitution, and have pre-defined legal relationships.

b) **Civil authorities** are instituted by God

God represents **civil authority** before the flood. God sentenced **Cain** for his murder of **Abel**, and protected Cain from anyone who would try to kill Cain, Genesis 4:10-16. **After** the flood, God **instituted civil laws** for the purpose of **protecting** the **divine rights** of the **lawful** and **punish** the **unlawful**, Genesis 9:6. Individuals **making the laws** must have a **working** understanding of the **laws of nature** and the **nature of God** by which **just laws** are made.

c) **Governments** are instituted by men – 1 Samuel 8:4-9

Principles of governmental authority:

- **Man – Might** (power) is **Right** (authority) – grab all you can and change the laws to keep you in authority.
- **God – Right** (authority) is **Might** (power) - all authority is owned by God and laws cannot be changed by man to gain favor from the people or power over the people. Authority is decentralized among all men because all humanity is created in the image of God.