

**Governmental Authority**  
**Romans 13:1-7**

Romans 13 is of particular interest to us during these days of COVID restrictions. This past year, different levels of government have had things to say about our liberty, our freedom to choose and about the Church – how we assemble, even what we do when we assemble. For some, it has felt like government overreach. For others, it has been spot on. For still others, it should have been done differently.

The tension for the Christian can come in this way:  
When it comes to governmental authority, when do we submit and when do we resist? In order to have a good plan for that, we need to understand the foundation laid out in Romans 13.

**1. The authority of government is \_\_\_\_\_ by God.**

Clearly, God is bigger, greater, more powerful, more authoritative than the government. The government is not the Almighty and does not have the most influence, nor does it carry the most hope or have the last word.

**2. The authority of government is to be \_\_\_\_\_ by Christians.**

The main civil and religious authorities that existed at the time of Paul were not friendly to the Church. This would have been hard to hear.

See also, 1 Timothy 2:1-4

**3. The authority of government given by God is a \_\_\_\_\_ on the sinful nature of people.**

**4. The authority of government can be challenged through civil disobedience when the government is in conflict with God's authoritative Word.**

See also, Acts 4:18-20 and Acts 5:27-29

Perhaps the intention of Paul is to communicate to Rome that...

**1) *Christians are good citizens.***

**2) *Caesar is not God.***

Recommended Reading: [Gospel Coalition Article – Declaration of Faithful Disobedience](#)