



WHEN IN ROMANS - PT. 2

Week 7 - Discussion Questions

SERMON SUMMARY

Romans 13:1–7 reminds us that God has always ruled over every ruler and that His sovereignty does not rise or fall with political cycles. Paul wrote these words to believers living under unstable, even hostile Roman emperors, yet he called them to live under Christ's lordship while submitting to earthly authority. Submission does not mean blind allegiance, fear, or arrogance; it means prayerful, humble obedience shaped by surrender to Jesus above all else. For Christians today, political engagement matters, but the posture of our hearts matters more. Humility, unity, and full surrender to Christ must define the way we think, speak, and act, because Jesus—not earthly government—is the true and eternal King.

ICEBREAKER

- If you had to appoint one fictional character as president, who would you choose and why?"

(Examples: Aslan, Gandalf, Yoda, Captain America, Dora the Explorer)

UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY.

- What does Paul mean when he says there is "no authority except from God"?
- What would it have felt like to hear Romans 13 while living under Caligula or Nero? How does their context reshape how we read this passage today?
- How does knowing God is sovereign over rulers bring peace when we disagree with or struggle under earthly leadership?



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UNDERSTANDING SUBMISSION.

- In your own words, what is the difference between biblical submission and blind allegiance?
- What are some biblical examples where God's people disobeyed earthly authority, and why was it the right thing to do?
- What does it practically look like to live "under Christ's lordship while submitting to earthly authority"?

PERSONAL APPLICATION.

- When you think about politics, where do you most feel the pull of fear, frustration, or pride?
- How do you tend to respond when government decisions or cultural shifts don't go your way?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to keep Jesus at the center of your thinking and conversations?

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DIGGING DEEPER.

AUTHORITY IS BIBLICAL.

Authority is often frowned upon in our culture. Many people hear the word and immediately think of misuse, control, or corruption. Yet Scripture consistently presents authority as something rooted in the character of God Himself. God created authority, delegates it, limits it, and uses it for His purposes. Healthy authority is meant to reflect His order, His justice, and His care. Sin distorts authority, but it does not erase its goodness or its necessity. The Bible calls God's people to recognize and honor authority while also discerning when earthly authority conflicts with God's authority. When understood through Scripture rather than through cultural suspicion, authority becomes not a threat to freedom, but a framework for flourishing under God's rule.

QUESTIONS

- **Read Genesis 1:26–28.** How does God delegating authority to humanity help us understand why authority is not inherently a bad thing?
- **Read 1 Peter 2:13–17.** What connection do you see between honoring authority and representing Christ well?
- **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13.** What does this passage add to our understanding of spiritual authority?