ROMANS

Submitting to Rightful Say So

ROMANS 13:1-7

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

SUBMIT to governing authorities because **GOD** appointed them, (v. 1-2)

authority comes from God Dan 2:21; Dan 4:17; John 19:11; Prov 8:15–16

resisting authority resists God 1 Pet 2:13; Titus 3:1; Prov 24:21–22; Eccl 8:2–3; Exod 16:8; 1 Sam 24:6

they **SERVE HIM** for our good, (v. 3-5)

servants of God Isa 45:1; Jer 25:9; 1 Pet 2:14–17; 2 Chr 19:6; Prov 21:1; Prov 25:2

submitting to God Titus 3:1–2; Jas 4:7; Acts 5:29; Acts 4:19; Dan 3:17–18; Exod 1:17

and we **OWE THEM HONOR**. (v. 6-7)

paying what we owe Mark 12:17; Matt 17:27; Prov 3:27; 1 Thess 4:11–12

honoring those over us 1 Tim 2:1–2; Eccl 10:20; Jer 29:7; Phil 2:3; Exod 22:28; 1 Pet 2:17

We are *sent* to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

life groups Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with one another as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

Who's someone who had authority over you that you really respected, like a coach, teacher, boss, etc.? What made them worth respecting?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. 📖 **Read Romans 13:1-7.** Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

2. Paul writes, "*There is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God*" (**Rom 13:1**). He wrote that while *Nero* (a notorious persecutor of Christians) was emperor! Why do you think Paul could say this about rulers who didn't know or honor God?

   - After an election season, some people feel relieved and some feel discouraged. How does knowing God ultimately places those in authority shape where we put our trust and our hope?

3. 📖 **Read Daniel 4:28–37 and John 19:10–11.** Nebuchadnezzar and Pilate both held a lot of power. What do these passages show about where their authority came from and who they answered to?

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee community bible church

At Wawasee, each of us is growing to increasingly live out these four roles as we follow Jesus together.

Secure Son/Daughter
I live each day increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval.

Courageous Connector
I cultivate honest relationships that cross barriers and create belonging—even before belief.

Ready Storyteller
I live each day with a sense of sentness, ready to reveal my story and God's story.

Legacy Builder
Because of Jesus, I multiply what has been given to me by spiritually investing in others for kingdom impact.

Word Find in the **Word**

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Romans 13:1-7 (NLT)

*Find the words **bolded** below.*

[1] **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. [4] The **authorities** are God's **servants**, **sent** for your **good**. But if you are **doing** wrong, of **course** you should be **afraid**, for they have the **power** to **punish** you. They are God's **servants**, **sent** for the **very purpose** of **punishing** those who **do** what is wrong. [5] So you must **submit** to them, not **only** to **avoid punishment**, but also to keep a clear conscience. [6] Pay your **taxes**, too, for these same reasons. For **government** workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they **do**. [7] **Give** to **everyone** what you owe them: Pay your **taxes** and **government** fees to those who collect them, and **give** respect and **honor** to those who are in **authority**.

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life groups Study Guide *(continued)*

4. Paul calls governing authorities "*God's servant for your good*" (**Rom 13:4**) and "*ministers of God*" (**Rom 13:6**). What are some ways people who serve in government (police officers, judges, road crews, city council members, public servants) do good for us that are easy to overlook?

   - Is there someone in your group or church who serves in one of these roles? How could you encourage them?

5. 📖 **Read Acts 5:27–32 and Daniel 3:16–18.** Paul says we submit "*not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience*" (**Rom 13:5**). The apostles and Daniel's friends respected those over them, yet refused when they were commanded to disobey God. What do you notice about the way they said no?

   - How does seeing submission to authority as submission to God change the way we live under it?

6. Paul says, "*Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed*" (**Rom 13:7**). That sounds a lot like Jesus: "*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's*" (**Mark 12:17**). Taxes are fairly easy to measure. What does it look like to give respect and honor to leaders, even ones we might not agree with?

   - What might the way we post, joke, or talk at the dinner table about leaders say about the honor we give them?

Taking It Home

7. 📖 **Read 1 Timothy 2:1–4.** Paul urges prayer "*for kings and all who are in high positions*," and says this pleases God, "*who desires all people to be saved.*" Pick one leader this week (local, state, or national, maybe one you didn't vote for!) and pray for them by name each day. When conversations around you turn to politics, how could the way you speak about that leader point people to Jesus (as a **Ready Storyteller**)?

As you close, take time to pray for each other.

EFCA

Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at **wawaseebible.com/beliefs**.
Learn more about the EFCA at **efca.org**.

Wawasee Community Bible Church
2035 East 1300 North | Milford, Indiana 46542 | 574-658-9161 | wawaseebible.com

ROMANS

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PART 25

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Wawasee community bible church

We're Glad You're Here Today!

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wawasee.church