

“The Romans Road Rebooted”—Part 17

AUGUST 10, 2014

Everything we will hear today is in light of SUBMISSION:

- **HYPOTÁSSŌ (THAYER’S GREEK DICT.)**

to arrange under, to subordinate; to subject, put in subjection; to subject one's self, obey; to submit to one's control; to yield to one's admonition or advice; to obey, be subject

1. We are to be in submission to governing authorities or what is known as the CIVIL MAGISTRATE.

- **ROMANS 13:1 (ESV)**

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities...

- **MAGISTRATE (WEBSTER’S DICT., 1828 ED.)**

A public civil officer, invested with the executive government of some branch of it. In this sense, a king is the highest or first magistrate, as is the President of the United States. But the word is more particularly applied to subordinate officers, as governors, intendants, prefects, mayors, justices of the peace, and the like.

- **CIVIL (WEBSTER’S DICT., 1828 ED.)**

Relating to the community, or to the policy and government of the citizens and subjects of a state; Relating to any man as a member of a community; Reduced to order, rule and government; under a regular administration; regarding civilian affairs

- **CIVILIAN (WEBSTER’S DICT., 1828 ED.)**

One who is skilled in the Roman law; a professor or doctor of civil law; In a more extended sense, one who is versed in law and government.

- **DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9 (ESV)**

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it,² that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.”

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

2. We are to be in submission to governing authorities because God has ORDAINED and INSTITUTED them.

- **ROMANS 13:1b (ESV)**

...For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

- **PSALM 103:19 (ESV)**

¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

- **NUMBERS 11:14-17 (ESV)**

¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. ¹⁵If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.”

¹⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. ¹⁷ And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.

3. We are to be in submission to governing authorities because when we RESIST them, we are OPPOSING God.

- **ROMANS 13:2 (ESV)**

² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

- **ANTHÍSTĒMI (THAYER'S GREEK DICT.)**

to set one's self against, to withstand, resist, oppose

- **ROMANS 1:28-32 (ESV)**

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

- **ROMANS 14:11-12 (ESV)**

¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

- **ACTS 10:42 (ESV)**

⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he [JESUS] is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.

4. It is only in REBELLION to this authority that we find ourselves under JUDGMENT.

- **ROMANS 13:3 (ESV)**

³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval...

✚ **Only the lawbreaker should have fear of the civil magistrate, not the Christian.**

- **ROMANS 12:17-18 (ESV)**

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

5. The civil magistrate is the SERVANT of God.

- **ROMANS 13:4-5 (ESV)**

⁴ ...For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

- **DIAKONOS (THAYER'S GREEK DICT.)**

one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister; this is where we get the word deacon from, one who, by virtue of the office assigned to him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use

✚ **The civil magistrate is designed to judge and administrate civil matters according to God's Law.**

✚ **This means as we stated earlier that they must know, discern and apply God's Law as a civilian.**

- **NEHEMIAH 8:1-8 (ESV)**

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. ⁴ And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

✚ **There is a need for the civil magistrate for there are matters that are too great and outside the bounds of the sphere of the Church.**

- **EXODUS 18:13-26 (ESV)**

¹³ *The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. ¹⁴ When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?" ¹⁵ And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; ¹⁶ when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws." ¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. ¹⁹ Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, ²⁰ and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. ²¹ Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²² And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. ²³ If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace."*

²⁴ *So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. ²⁵ Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²⁶ And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves. ²⁷ Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country.*

✚ **This is not say that we should immediately run to the civil magistrate.**

- **1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-8 (ESV)**

When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? ² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! ⁴ So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, ⁶ but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? ⁷ To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? ⁸ But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

✚ **Having received their charge, the civil magistrate is not to forbid what God requires, nor require what God forbids.**

✚ **It is when the civil magistrate acts unlawfully in this area, that we are no longer required, nor can the Believer submit to them; it is then, that civil disobedience is necessary.**

- ✚ It is not the responsibility of the Church to overthrow the civil magistrate in these circumstances, but to call them to the standard of God’s Word which they have been charged and commanded to administrate.
- ✚ If this does not bring repentance and adherence to the Word of God, then we have the responsibility to do within our ability to remove them from their position and place God-fearing Believers.
- ✚ This means that Christianity does have a responsibility to be involved in “politics” for they are moral in nature.

- **2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5 (ESV)**

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- ✚ Sometimes we have to be like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who said in Daniel 3:16-18 in response King Nebuchadnezzar command to bow down to an idol:

- **DANIEL 3:16-18 (ESV)**

¹⁶ “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

- ✚ Or Paul who stood before King Agrippa in Acts 26 and testified to Gospel of Christ Jesus, although he was wrongfully imprisoned.

6. We are to COMPENSATE the civil magistrate for their services.

- **ROMANS 13:6-7 (ESV)**

⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay 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.

- **LEVITICUS 19:12-14 (ESV)**

¹³“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.”

- **MALACHI 3:5 (ESV)**

⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.”

- **1 CORINTHIANS 9:3-14 (ESV)**

³This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴Do we not have the right to eat and drink? ⁵Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? ⁸Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? ⁹For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. ¹¹If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹²If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. ¹³Do you not know that those who are

*employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?*¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

- **1 TIMOTHY 5:17-18 (ESV)**

¹⁷ *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.* ¹⁸ *For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”*

- ✚ I am aware that these last two Scriptures regard elders and ministers of the Gospel and these are different spheres and responsibilities under God’s Word, but they also show specifically that we are to compensate the civil magistrate for the work they do, not as a profession, but for services rendered that we owe.
- ✚ This does not mean the civil magistrate has the right to demand a tax for anything; it is only for compensation sake that there is a tax.
- ✚ This passage of Scripture does not mean that we are to blindly give money to the local, county, state, or federal government because they have taxed us.
- ✚ This does not mean that the civil magistrate has the right to make laws, but rather only to apply the Law of God, for there is no law superior to God’s Law and the Lord does not change (Malachi 3:6).
- ✚ This does not advocate forced taxation for welfare, for God’s Law already has made provision for how this is to be done and this through God’s people through the poor tithe.
- ✚ This does not advocate forced taxation for military, for Scripture specifically declares that we are not to have a standing army (Numbers 1 gives no provision for us to do so, but to account for those who are males 20 years and older who are able to rise up and go to battle)...and to do so violates the Sovereignty and Providence of God to protect and provide for a nation of his people.
- ✚ In all things and at all times we are to honor God and so the same is for the civil magistrate; to this they must be reminded often.