



- Americans tend to be somewhat suspicious of government.
- King George was a tyrant.
- Some would argue that arriving at a completed US constitution was difficult and almost didn't happen.
- We're constantly creating new laws, reassessing old laws, challenging laws.



- When the Governor of NM told churches not to meet in person, we stopped meeting for about 9 weeks.
 - Was this right or wrong?
 - Obey God rather than Man?
 - Was the government oppressing Christians? Persecuting?
 - Or was this about health measures and safety?

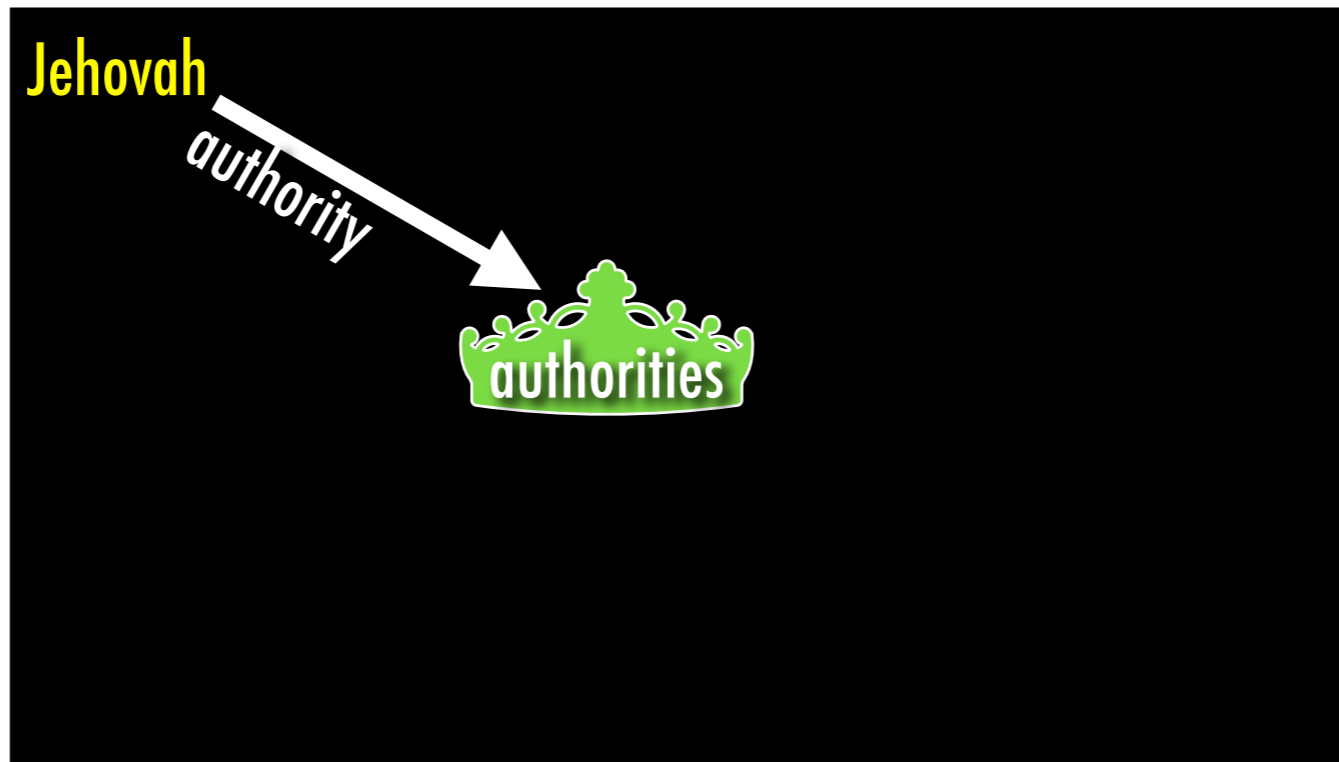


- Romans 12:2 (ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

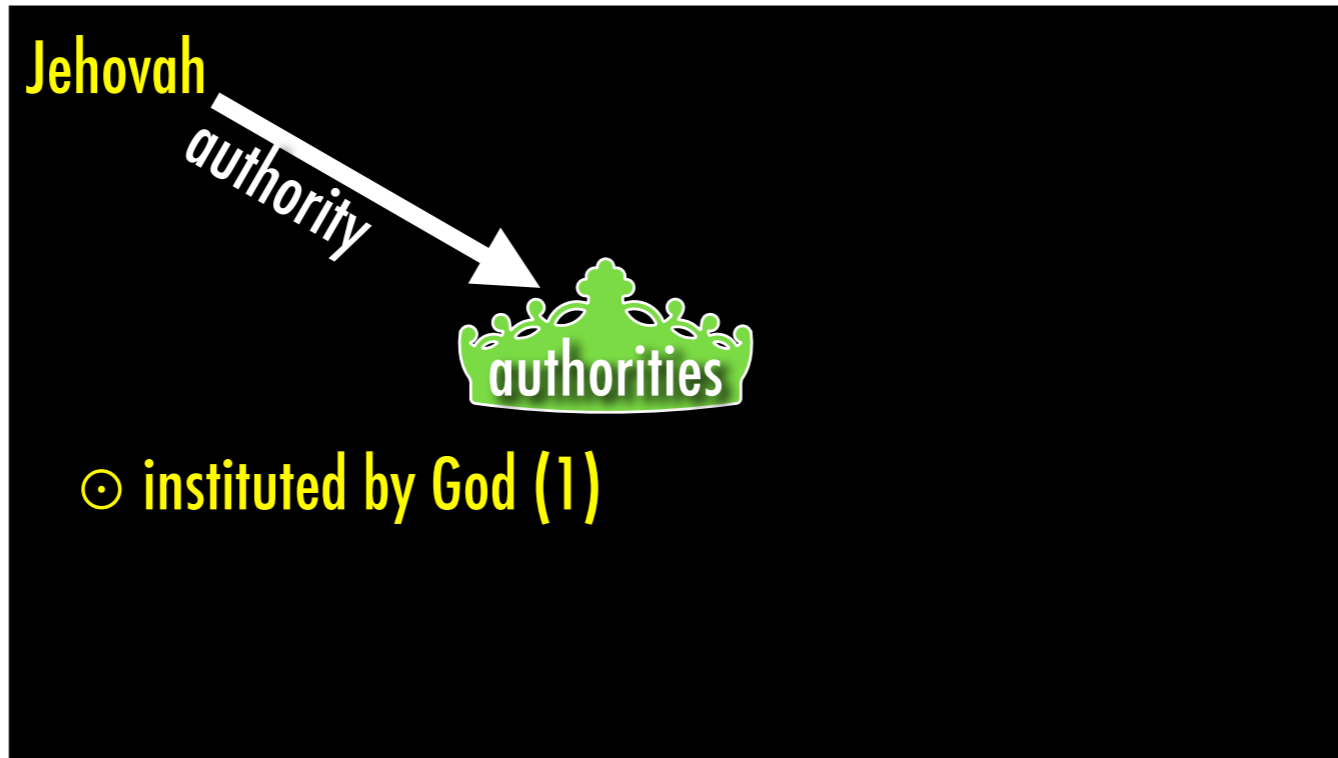


Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.
Romans 13:1

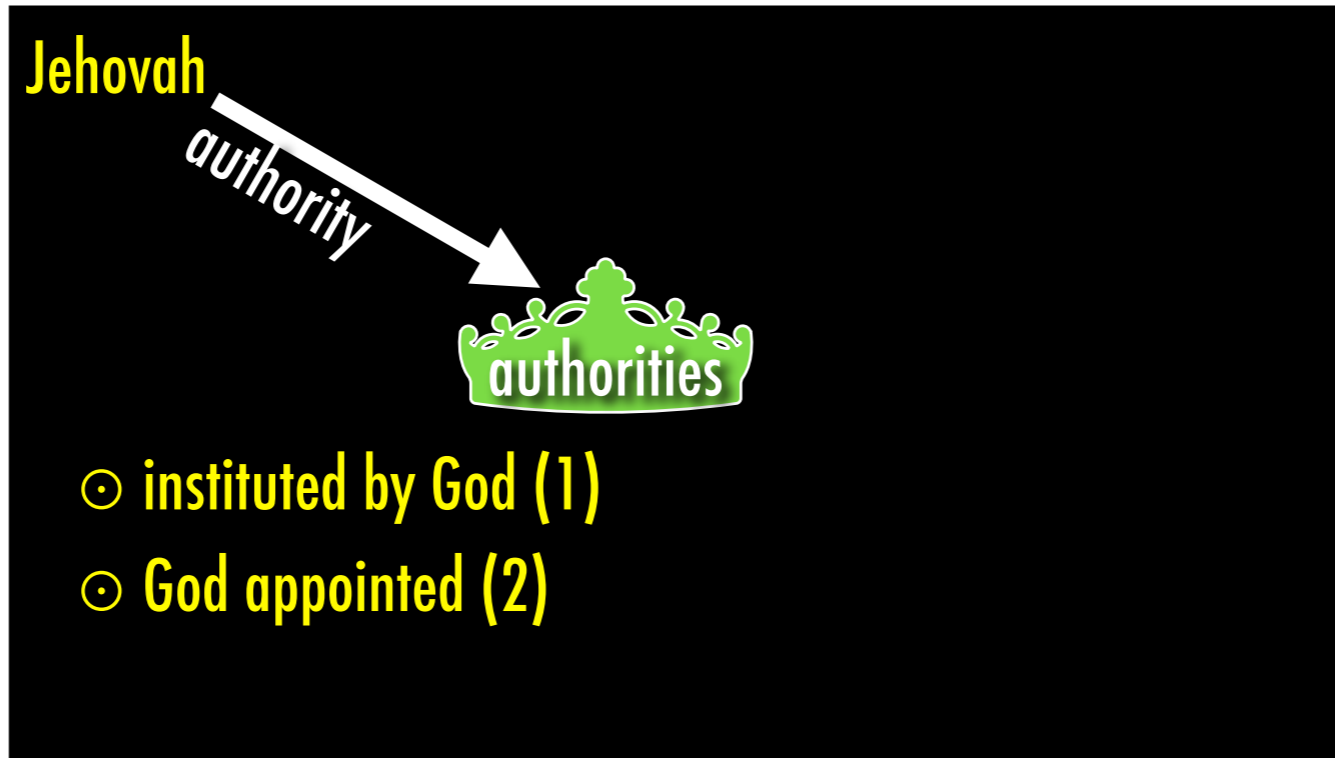
- Romans 13:1-7 (ESV) 1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers 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, 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. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 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.



- Authority
- (Olive Tree Enhanced Strong's Dictionary) g1849. ἐξουσία exousia; from 1832 — authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength:
 - the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed)
- CWSB: (2) In pl. or coll., those invested with power as the powers of rulers, magistrates (Luke 12:11; Rom. 13:1-3; Titus 3:1).
-



- Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been **instituted by God**.



- Romans 13:2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what **God has appointed**, and those who resist will incur judgment.

Jehovah

authority



- ⊙ instituted by God (1)
- ⊙ God appointed (2)
- ⊙ God's servant (4, 4, 6)

- Romans 13:4 (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.
- Romans 13:6 (ESV) 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are **ministers of God**, attending to this very thing.
- Note focus is not on an organization but on those individuals (he) and their role.

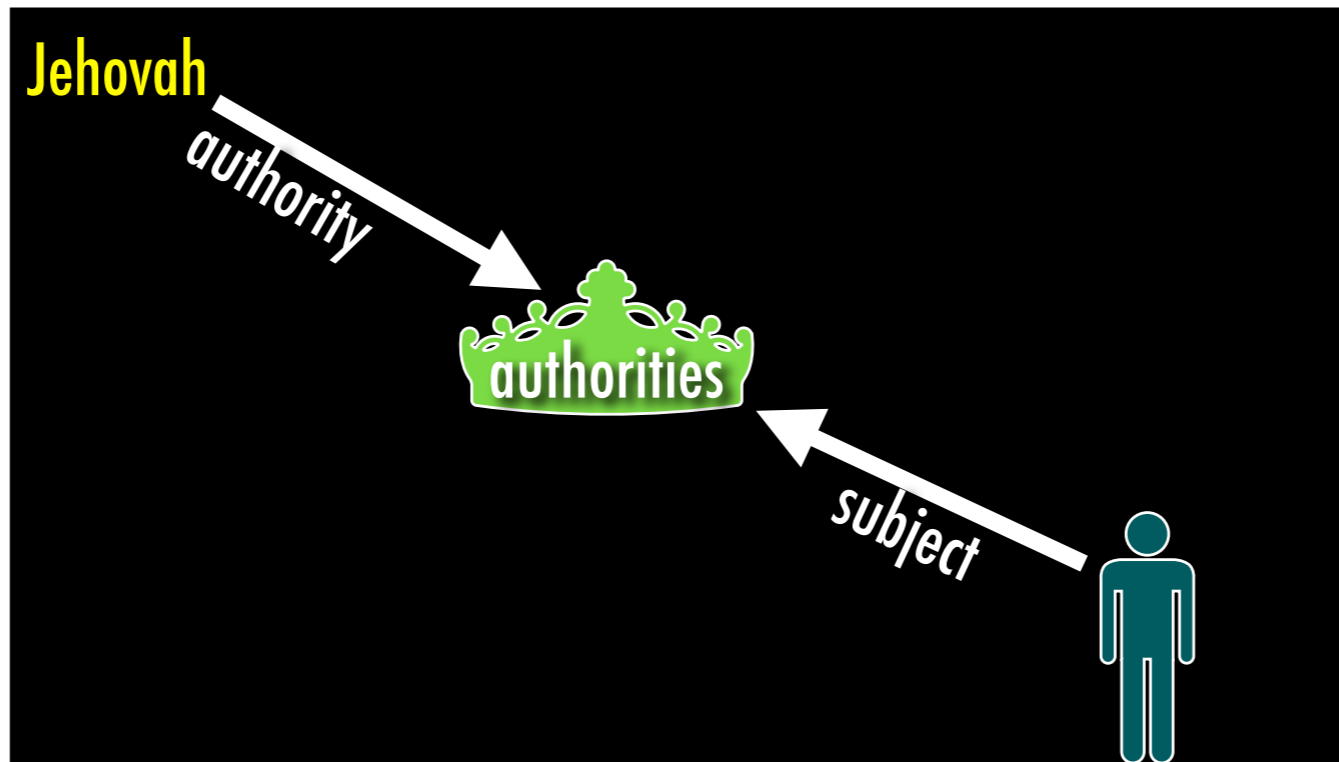
Jehovah

authority



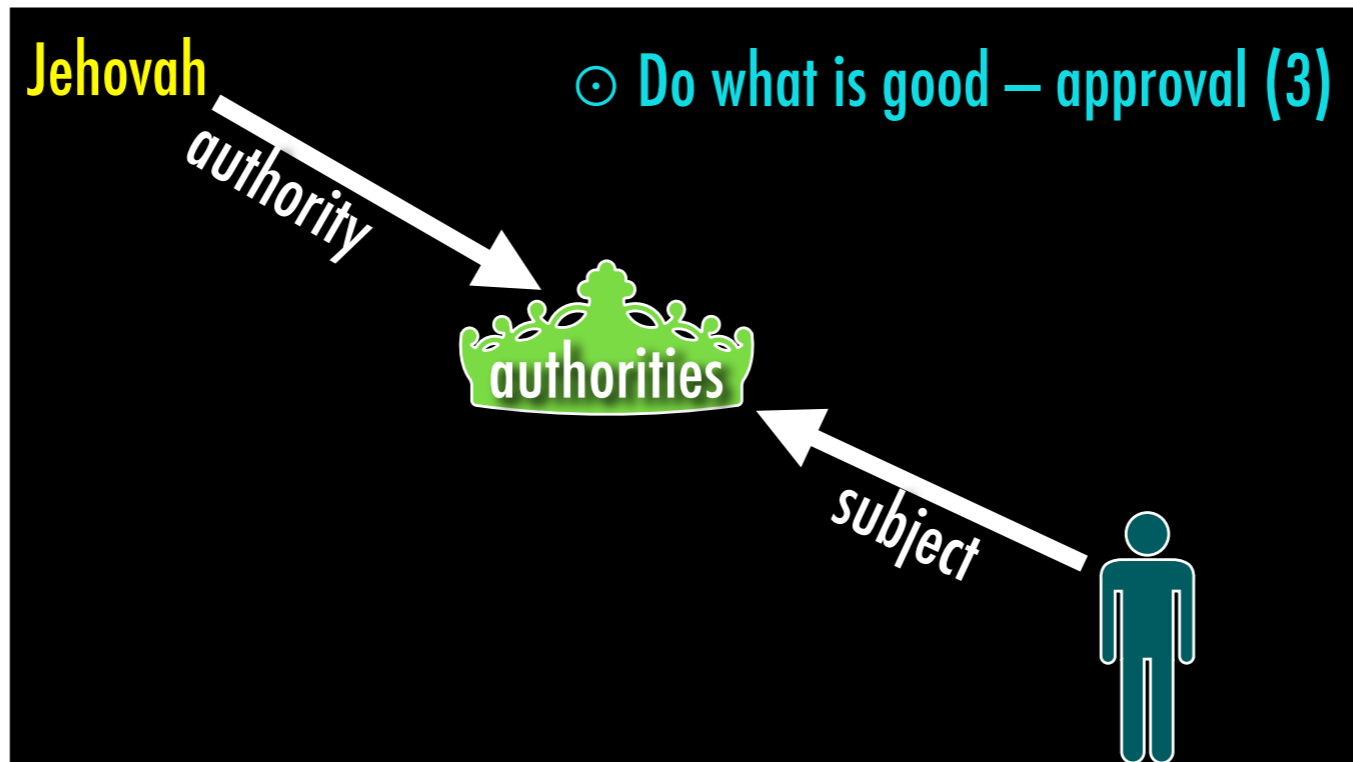
- ⊙ **instituted by God (1)**
- ⊙ **God appointed (2)**
- ⊙ **God's servant (4, 4, 6)**

- Paul doesn't appear to be making exceptions based on the quality of the government
 - Monarchy, Empire, Democracy, Republic, Socialist, Communist
 - Even cruel, bad governments?
 - 1 Peter 2:18 (ESV) Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.
 - Why would God allow this?
- Paul doesn't make exceptions about how a disciple responds to different types of governments either.

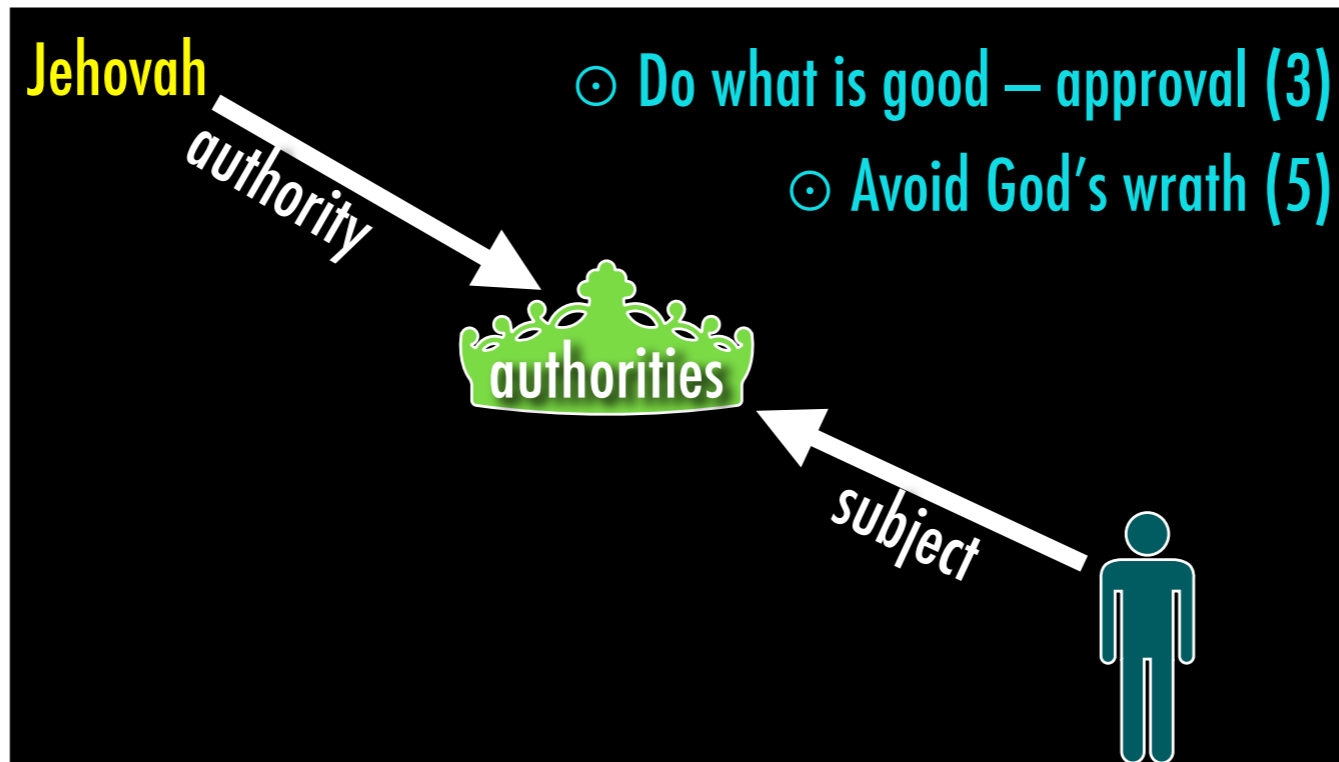


- Be subject

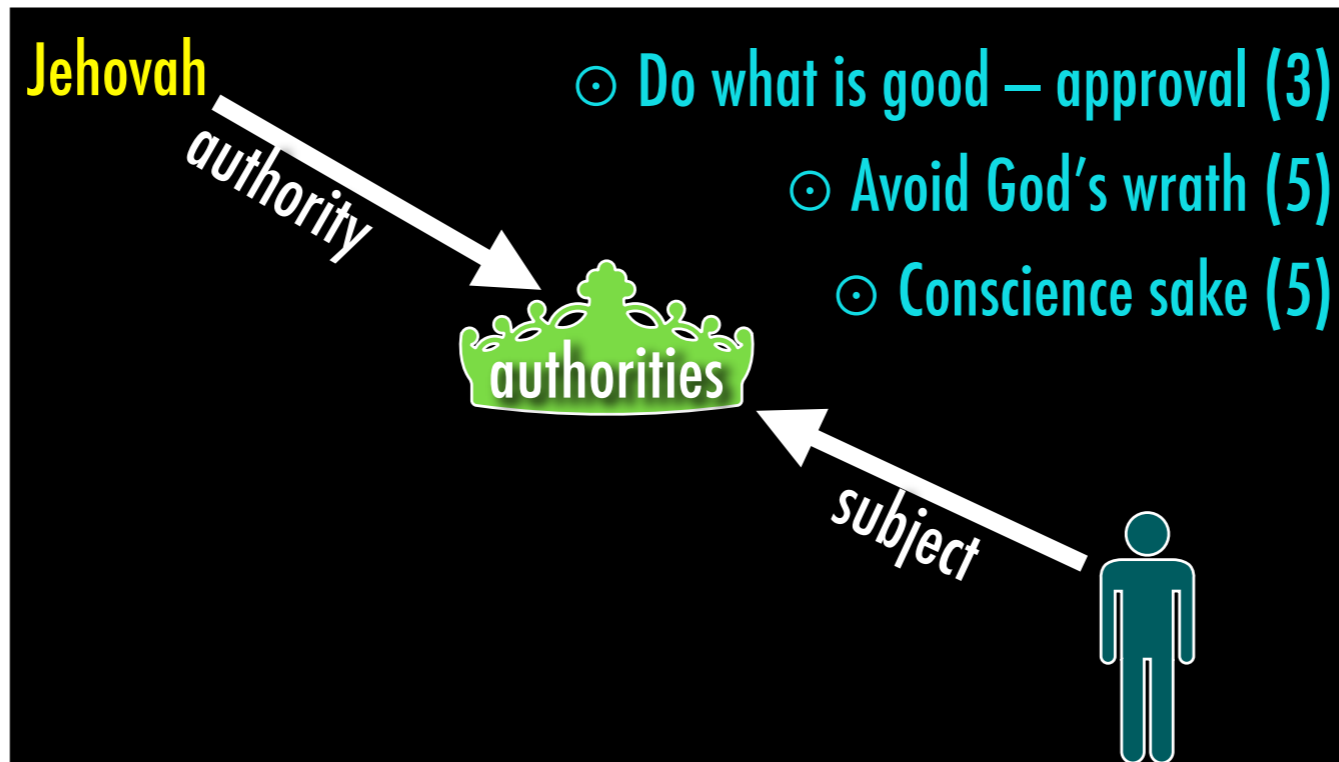
- (CWSB Dictionary) (E) In relation to government authorities (Rom. 13:1, 5; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13), a Christian must place himself under their authority.
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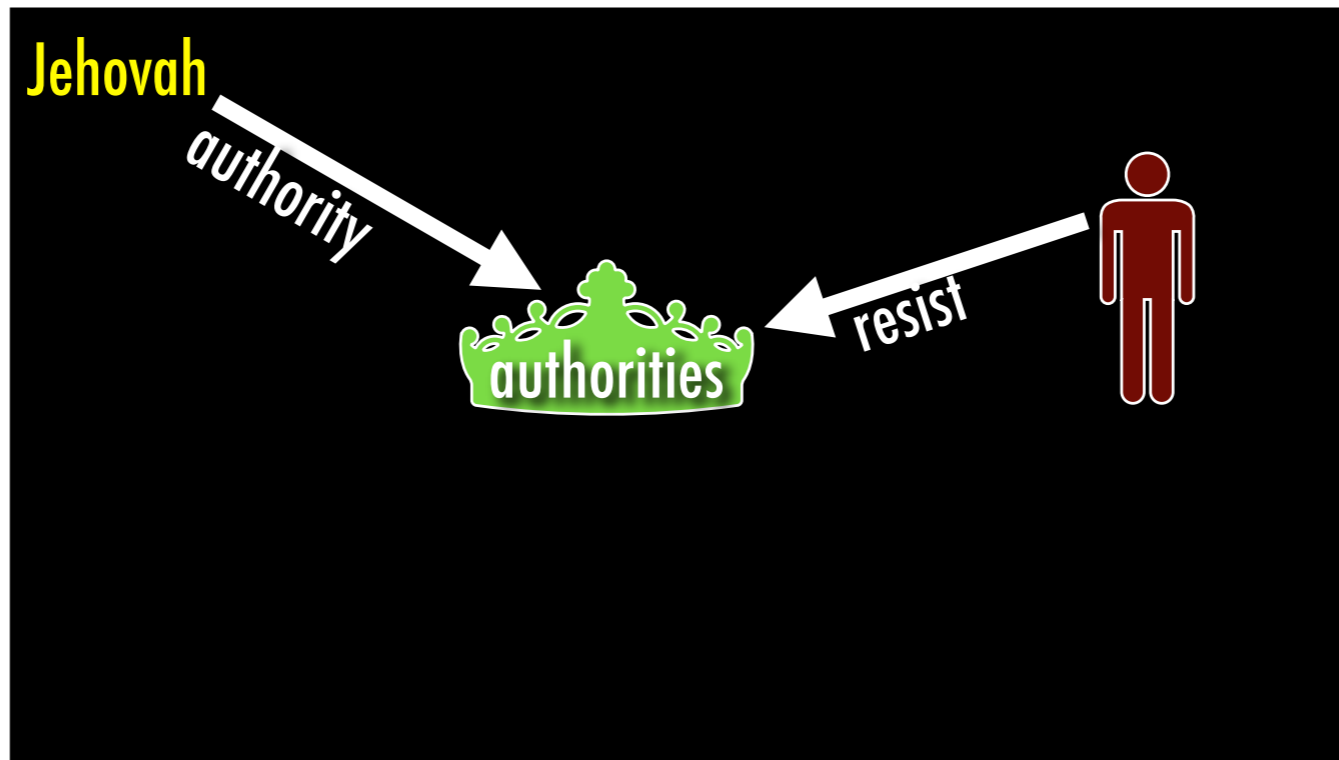
- Romans 13:3 (ESV) 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,



- Romans 13:5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.



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- Don't Resist

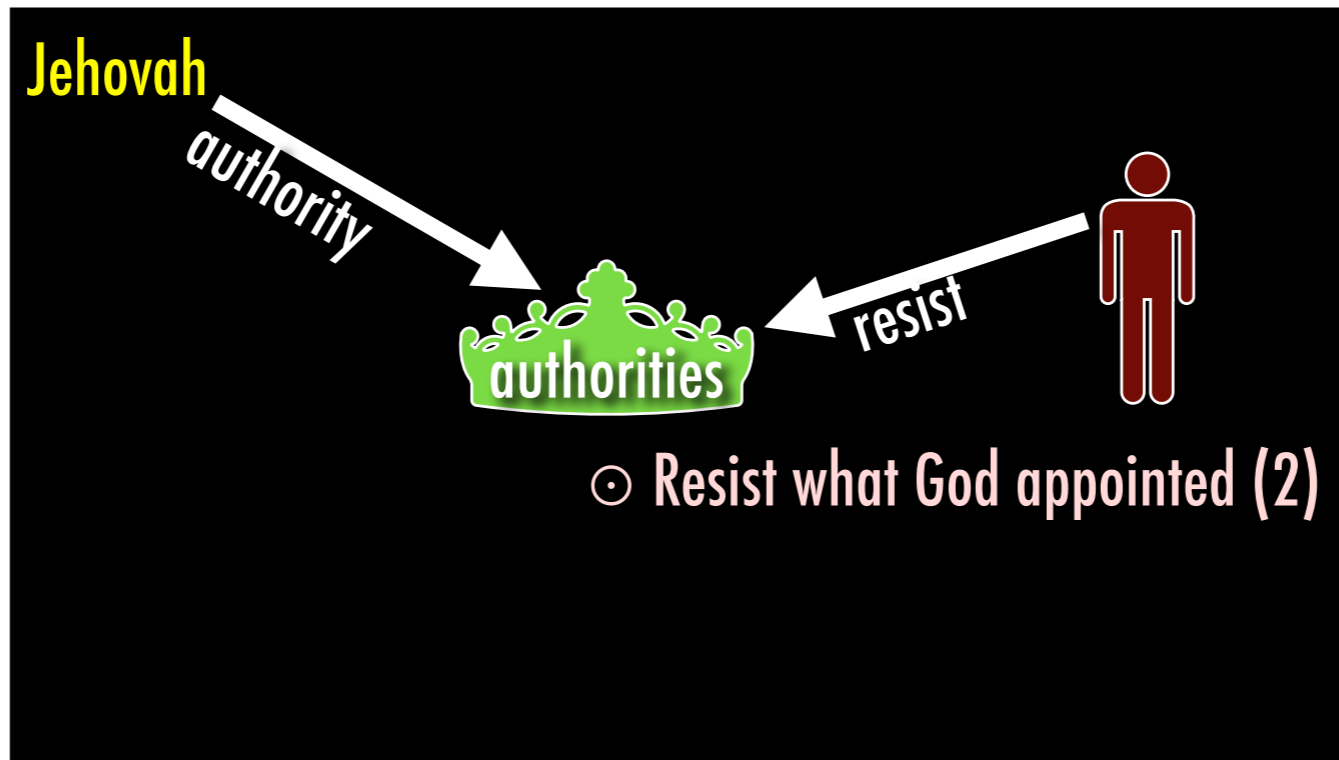
- We are either subject to government or we are resisting them

- (CWSB Dictionary) To set an army in array against, to arrange in battle order.

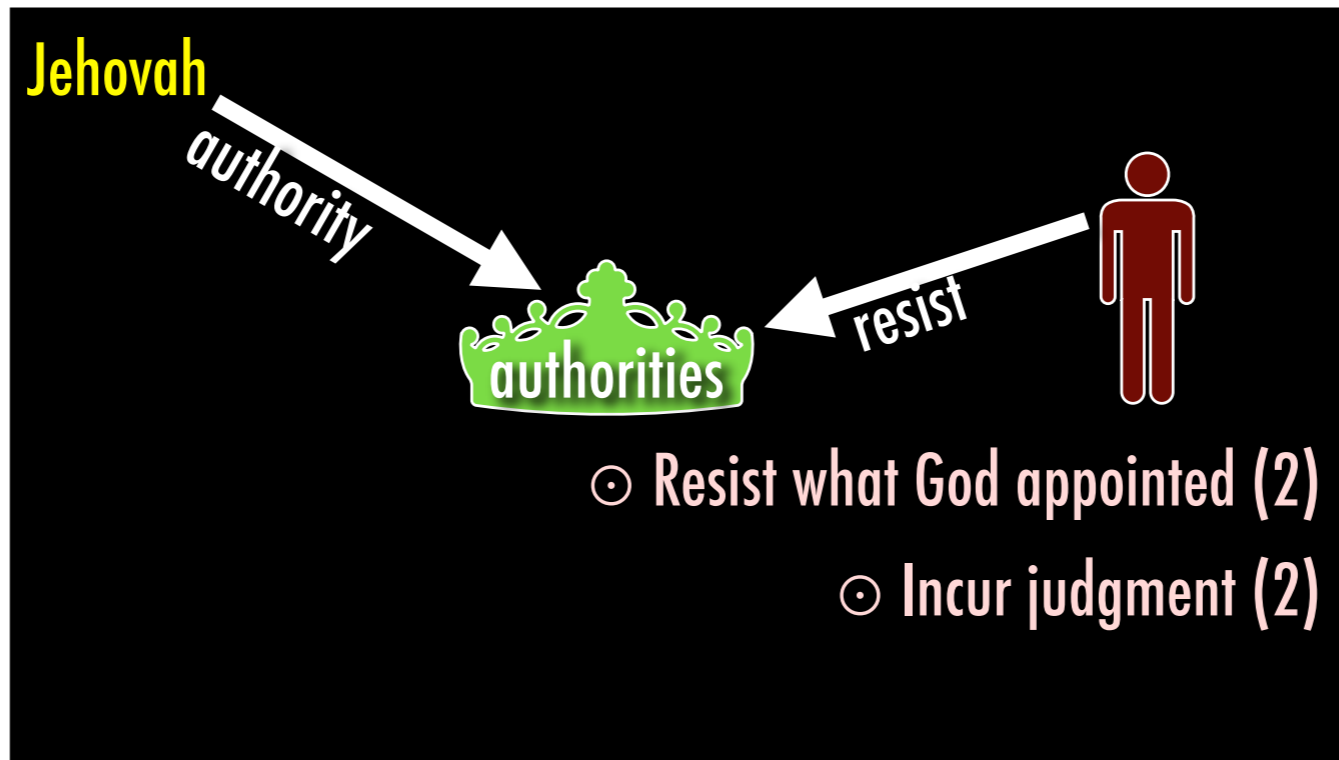
- In the NT, antitássomai is used metaphorically to set oneself in opposition to or in array against, to resist (Acts 18:6; Rom. 13:2; James 4:6; 5:6; 1 Pet. 5:5; Sept.: Prov. 3:34).

- to set oneself in opposition, resist, Acts 18:6; Rom. 13:2; Jas. 5:6; to be averse, Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5* [498]

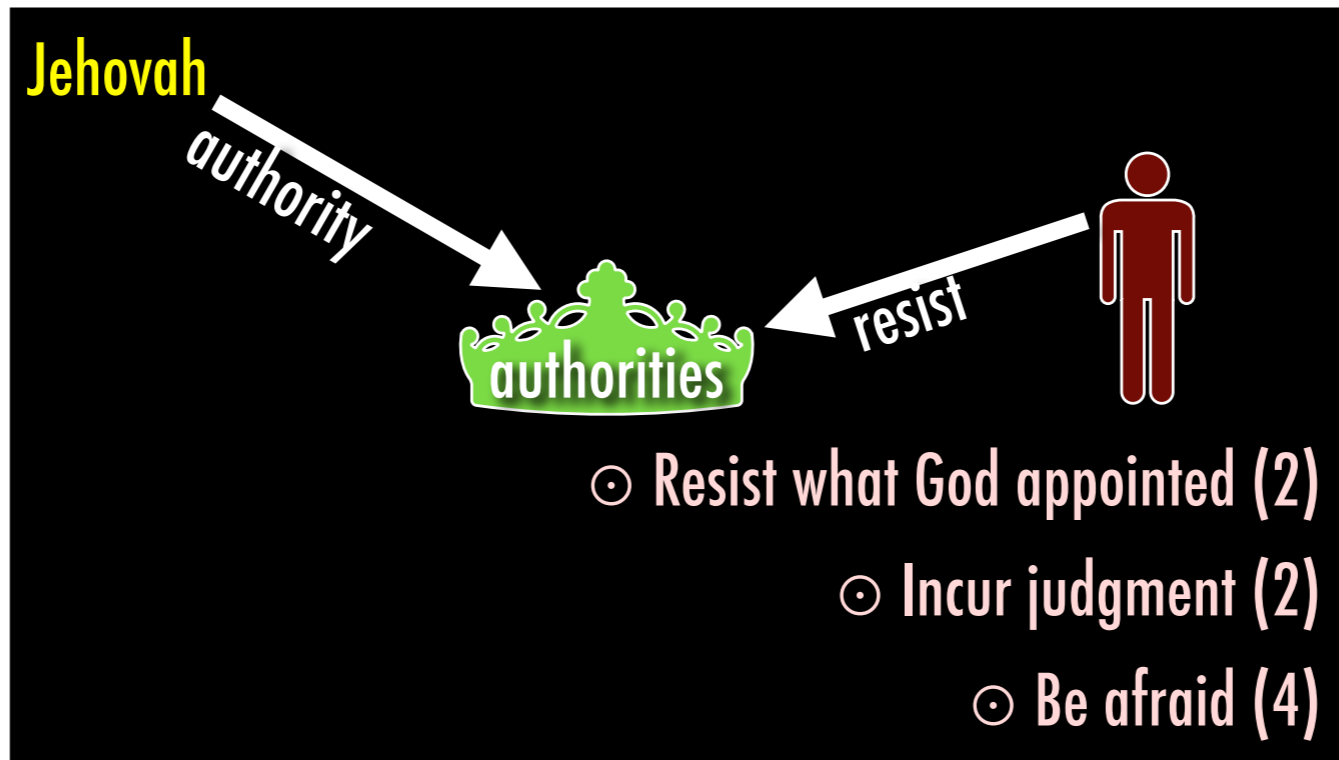
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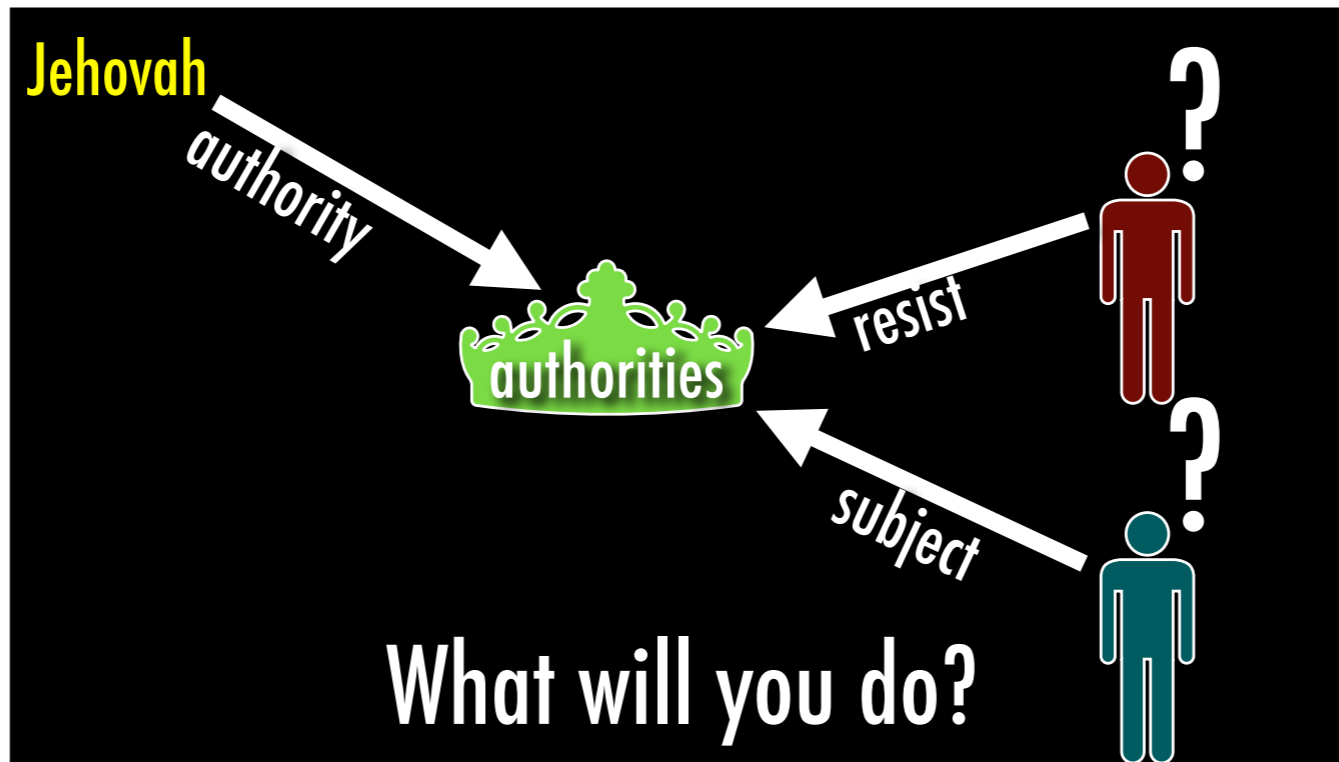
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 - Who's judgment? Government or God?

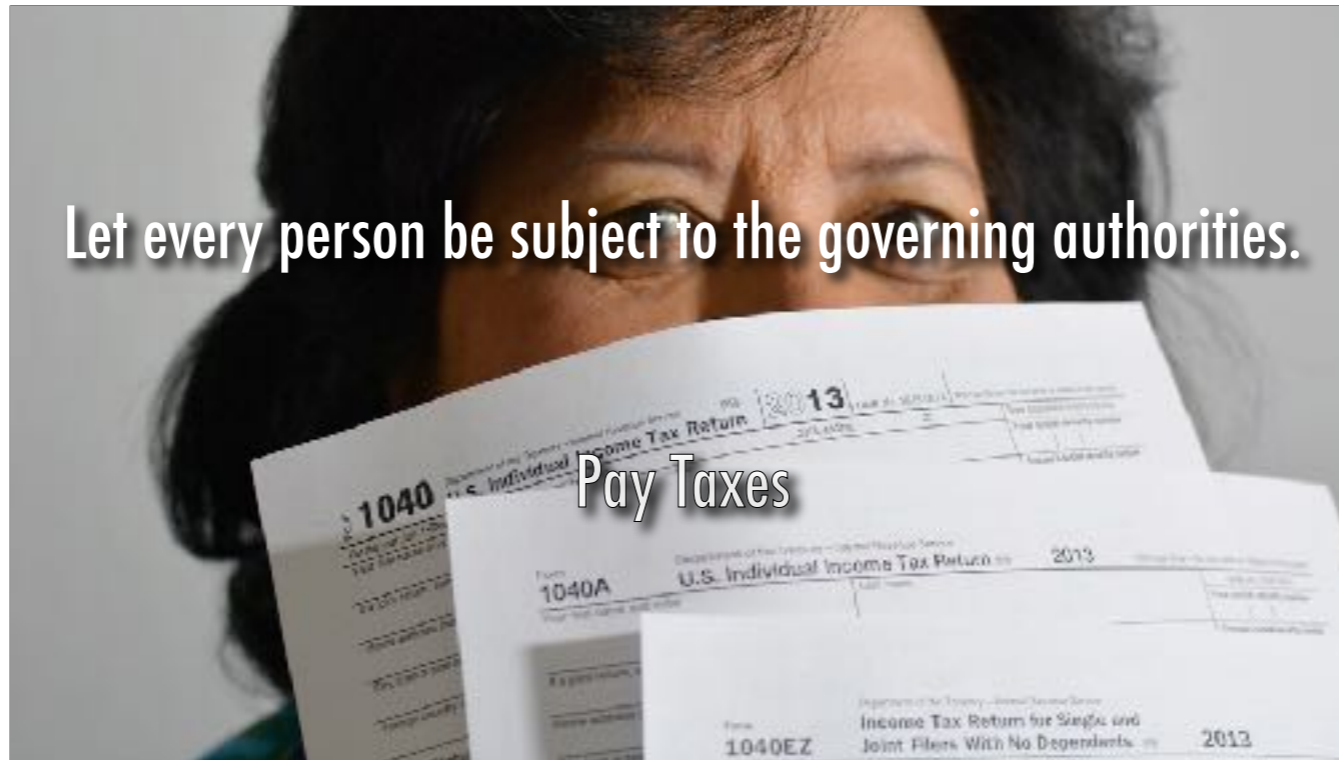


- Romans 13:3-4 (ESV) 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, **be afraid**, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.
- Afraid
 - bear the sword
 - an avenger God's wrath
 - on wrongdoer!
- What if I'm doing good, but the authorities are corrupt or evil and punishing me unjustly? Should I be afraid then?

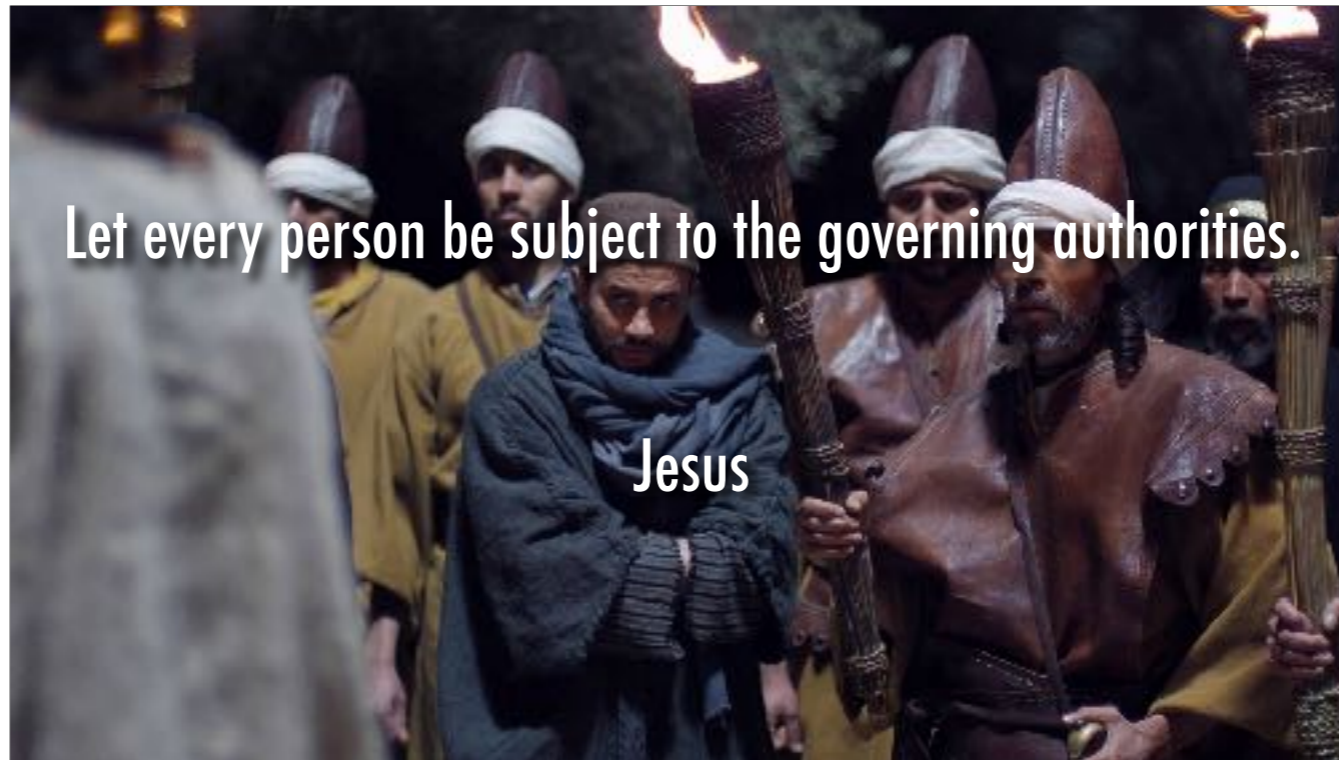


- What will you do?
 - Easy response is: be subject
 - What is reality in your life?

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.



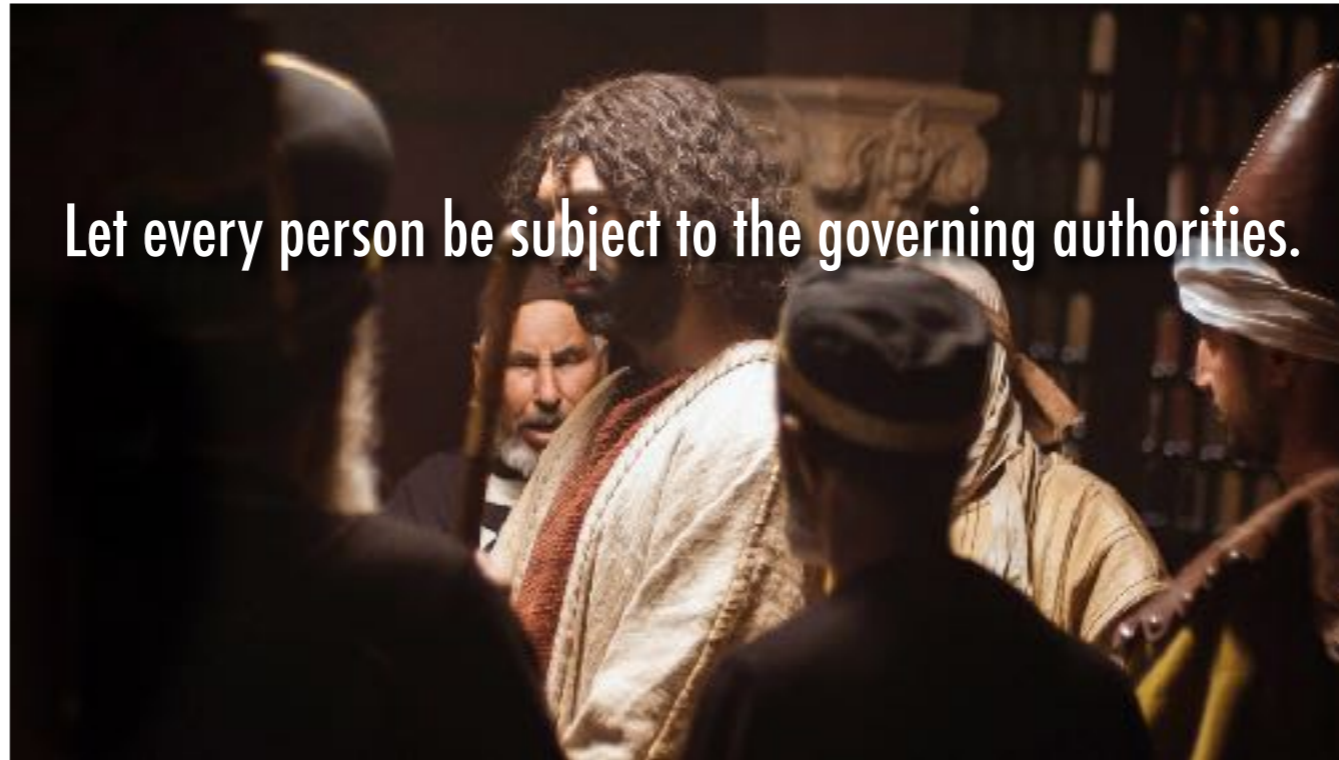
- Taxes
 - Romans 13:6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.
 - No one likes paying taxes.
 - But taxes provide the funds for the ministers of God to do their job.
 - If you aren't paying your taxes, are you not impeding God's servant?



- Jesus' Arrest and Trial: John 18 & 19
- Allows himself to be arrested:
 - 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5 They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go."



- 10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) 11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"



- Jesus didn't strike back
 - 22 When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?"

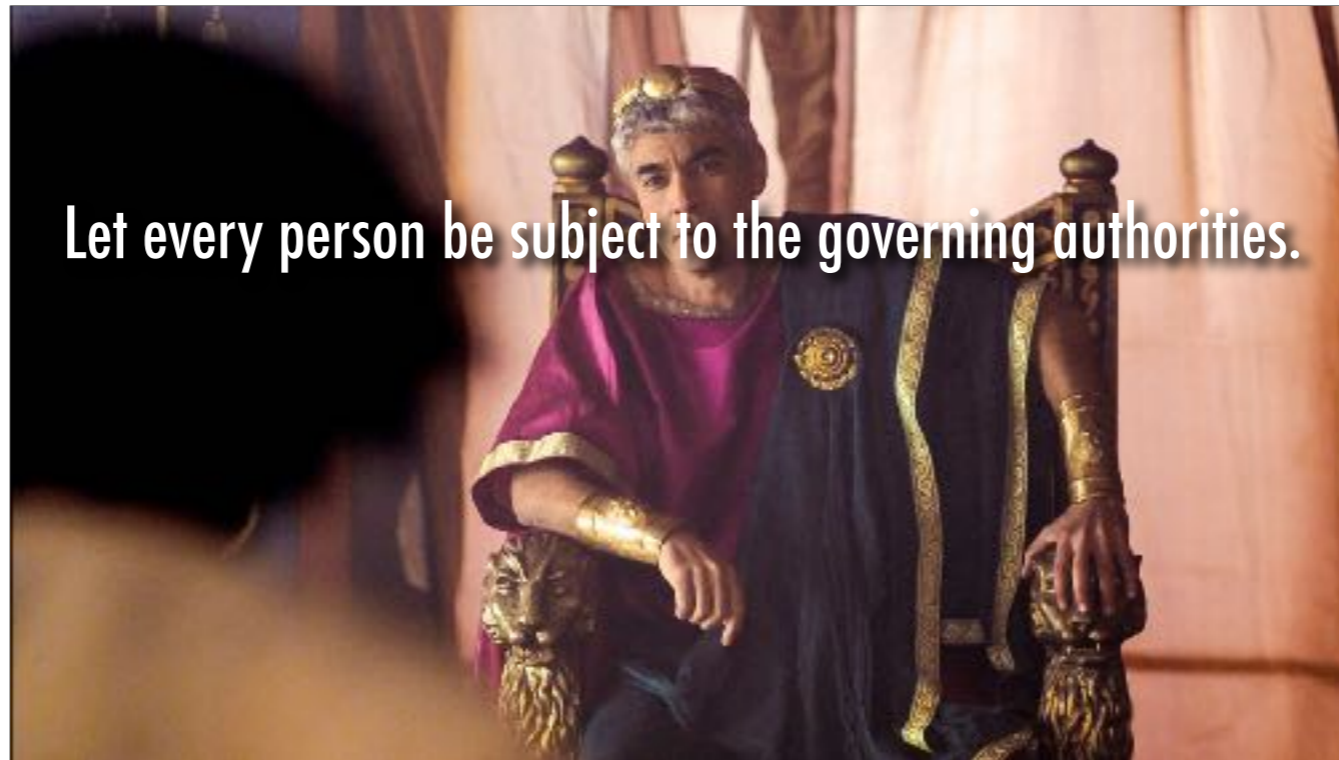


- King?

- 33 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"
- 34 Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"
- 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?"
- 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, **my servants would have been fighting**, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But **my kingdom is not from the world.**"



- 37 Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?”
- Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”
- 38 Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”



- Authority vs. Authority?
 - John 19:10-11 (ESV)
 - 10 So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?”
 - 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”
- Did Jesus subject himself?
 - Yes!
 - For our salvation.
 - Example.



Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.

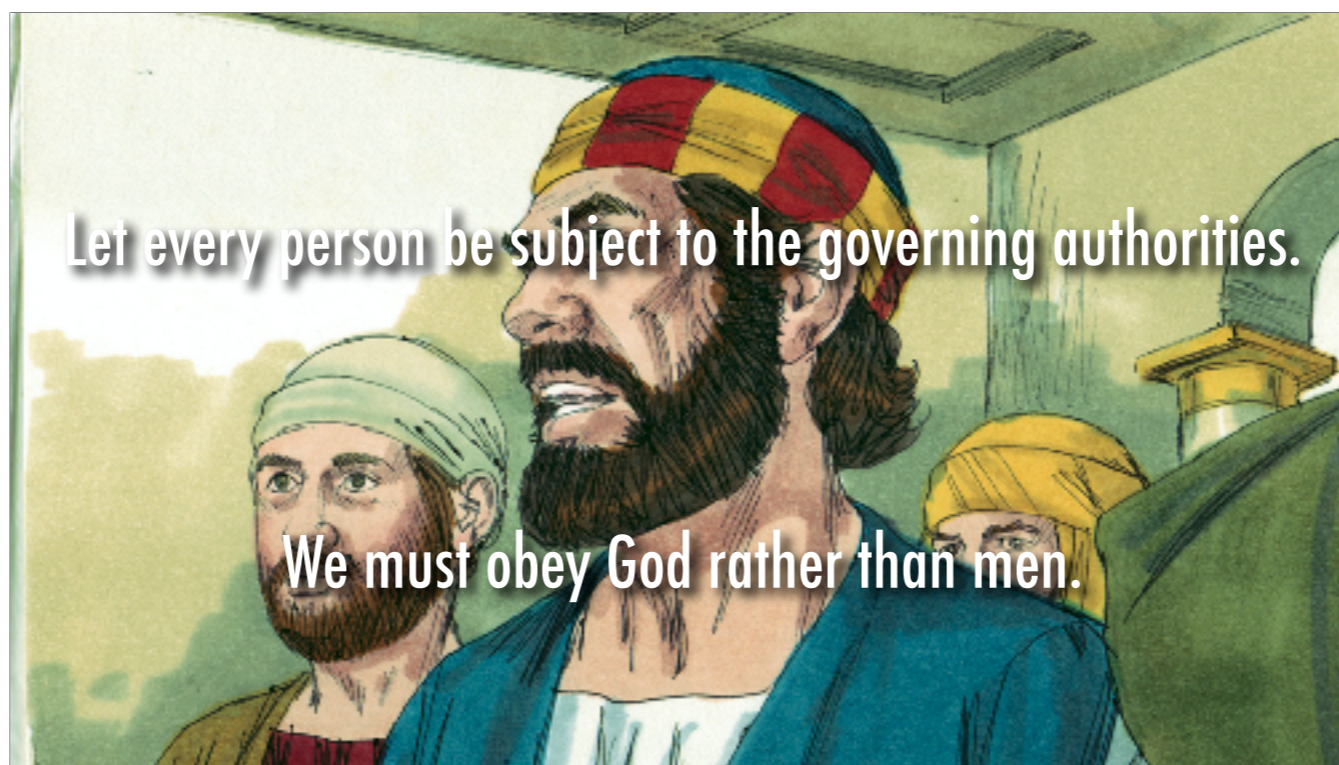
Apostles

- Apostles: Acts 5
- Arrested
 - Acts 5:17-21 (ESV) 17 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy 18 they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.
- Freed
 - 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” 21 And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.



- Re-arrested

- Acts 5:25-26 (ESV) 25 And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." 26 Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.



- Obey God
 - Acts 5:28-29 (ESV) 28 saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.
- Beaten:
 - Acts 5:40 (ESV) 40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.



- Rejoicing
 - Acts 5:41 (ESV) 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.
- Did not cease
 - Acts 5:42 (ESV) 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.
- Did the apostles submit to the authorities.
 - Yes... as far as they could: arrest, prison, beating
 - No... kept teaching
 - God's command



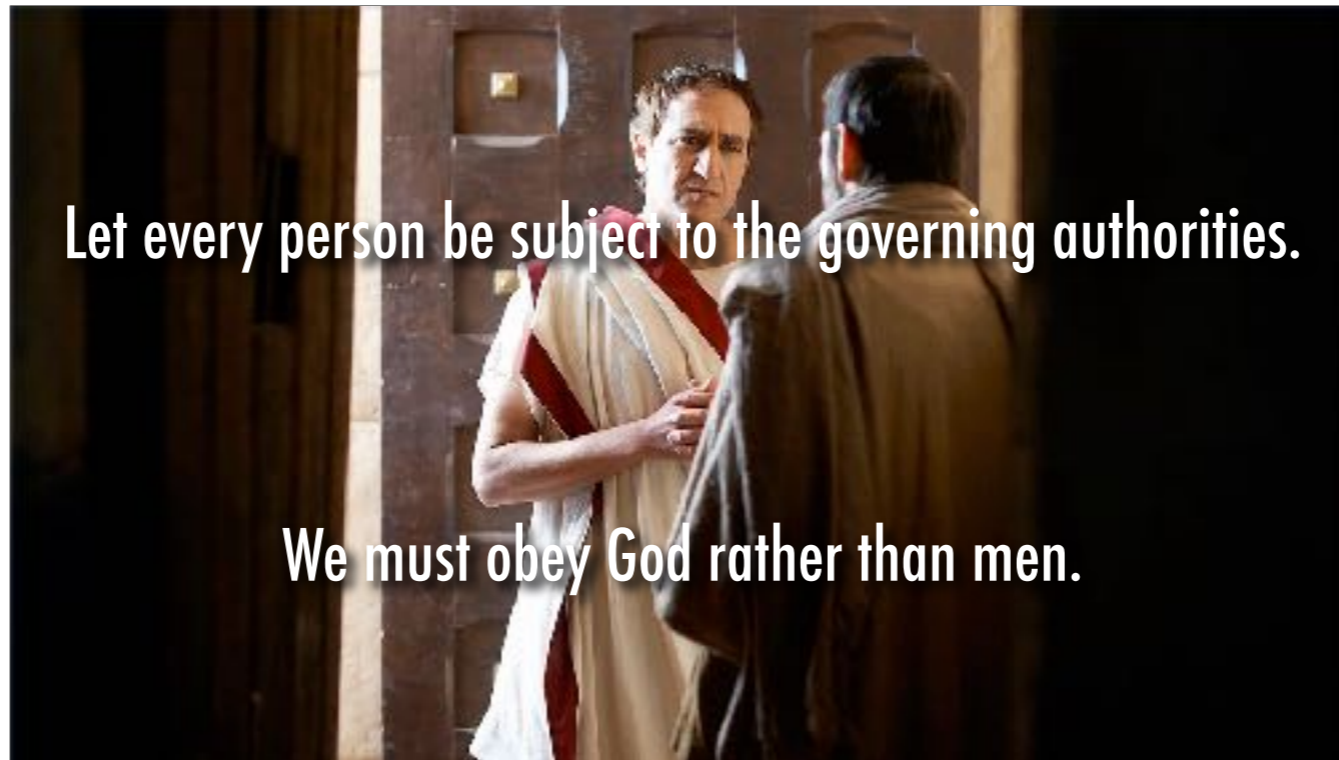
- Paul and Silas: Acts 16

- Arrested

- Acts 16:19-24 (ESV) 19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

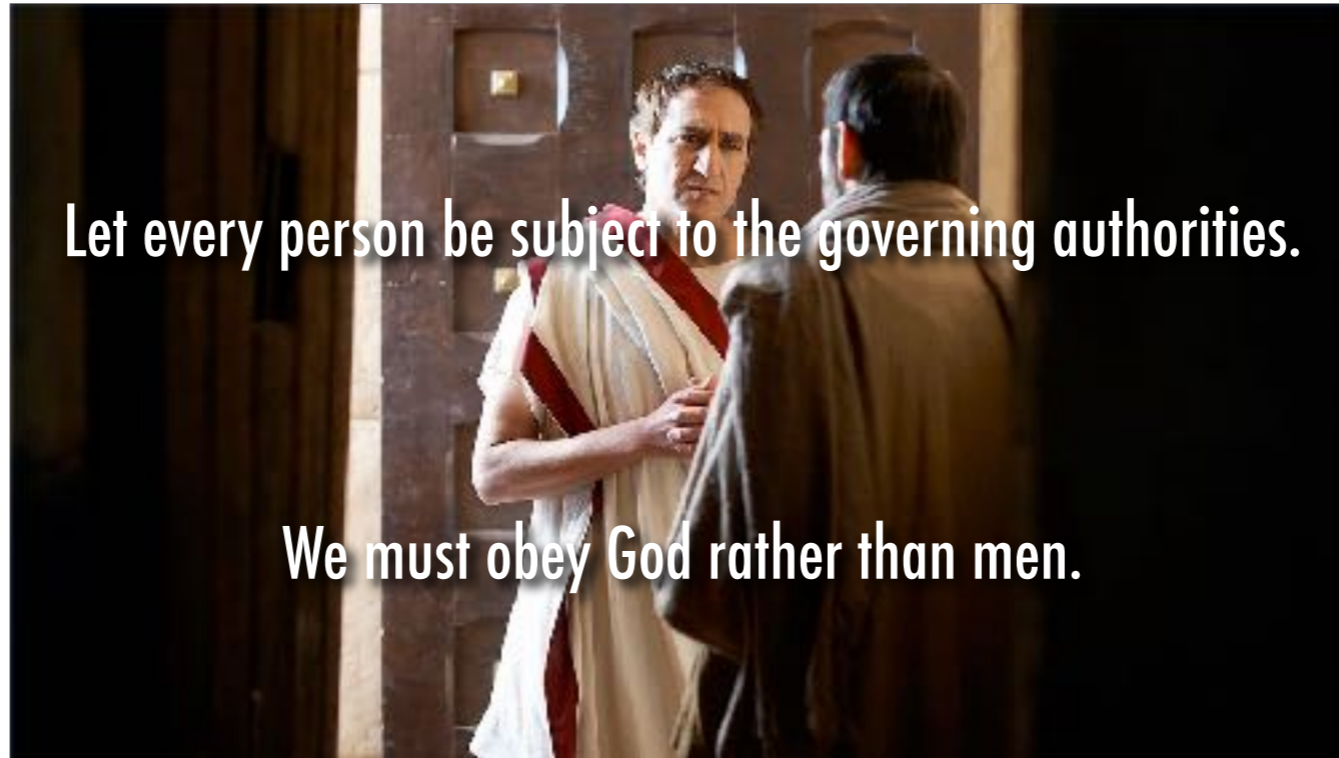
- Rights

- Acts 16:35-39 (ESV) 35 But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, “Let those men go.” 36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, “The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace.” 37 But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out.” 38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. 39 So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city.

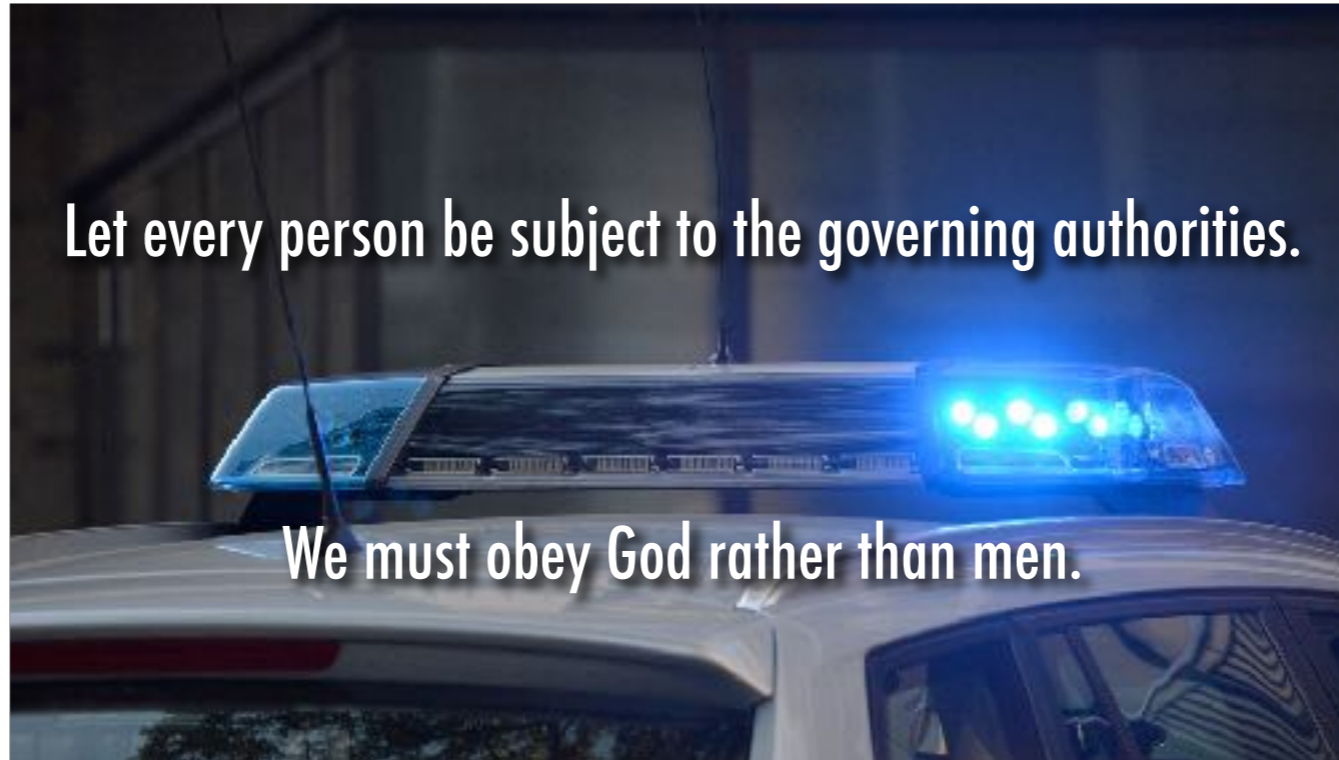


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- Did Paul and Silas submit to the governing authorities?
 - Yes.
 - Did they stand for their rights in the proper setting and way?
 - Did they resist? No.



- These examples remind us that when we are doing God's will, even if opposed by the government, we are not to be rebellious and violent.
- If there are consequences, we accept them.
- It doesn't mean that we agree with the government.



Let every person be subject
to the governing authorities.

We must obey God
rather than men.

- Practice: Theory vs. Reality
 - When our governor mandated staying home unless necessary, 6ft distance, and wearing masks (common in US)
 - medical exceptions
 - I heard many Christians rebelling against wearing a mask
 - Those who often quoted Paul: “subject to governing authorities”
 -

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RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

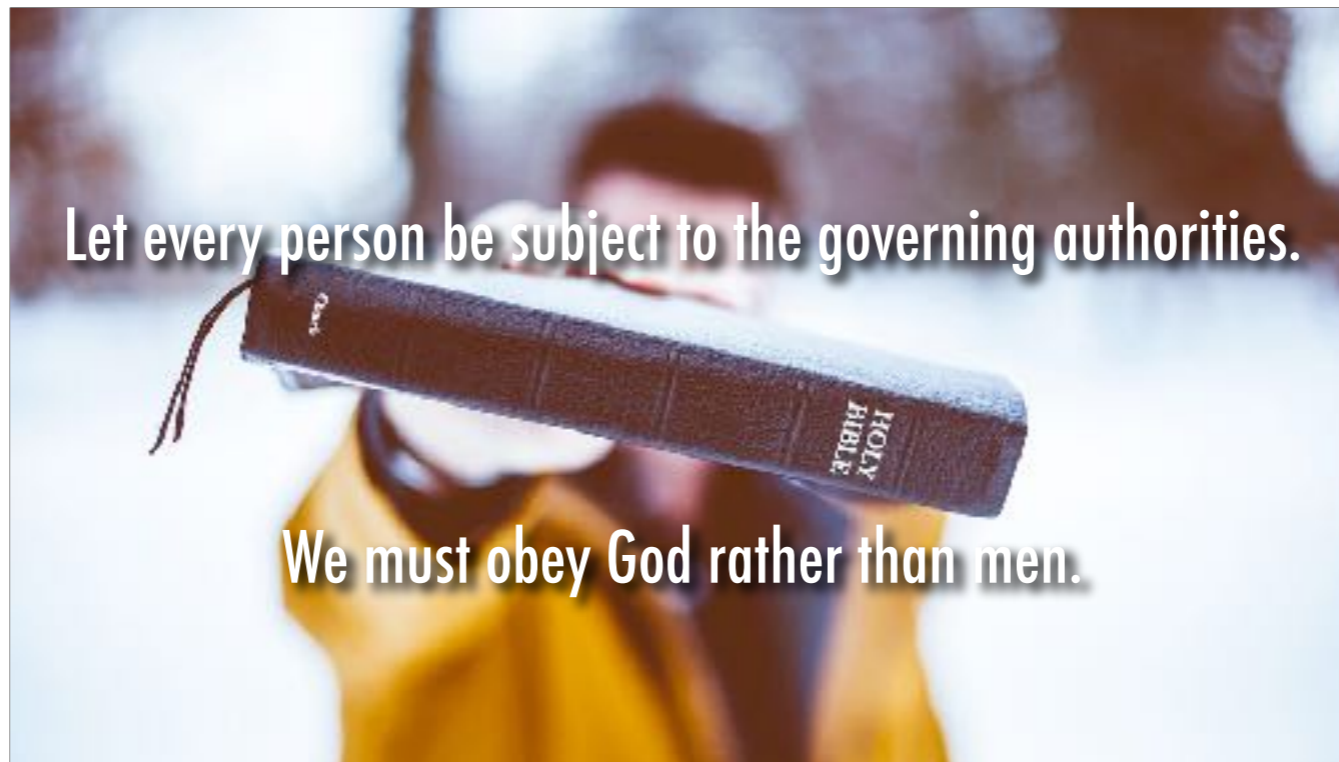
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SIGNER: *David W. Hill* Pastoral Representative
DAVID HILL

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.

We must obey God rather than men.

- Not a curtailing of our duties to God
- Yet refused to comply with the government
 - “The government is overstepping it’s authority.”
 - May be true based on our constitution.
 - But also may be irrelevant with regard to God’s instruction.



- Too often some have used this statement as an excuse for rebellion.
- We can be very wide in interpreting what is “obedience” in favor of what I want to do in opposition to the authority of the government.
- So where do we draw our lines? Very carefully!!!
 - Remember Paul’s admonition about 1) the wrath of God and 2) our conscience.
 - Must be careful to use only clear and specific passages to justify obeying God.
 - Remember the God given appointment and authority of these servants of God (even if wicked).

Submit
Do Not Resist

- Submit
- Do Not Resist

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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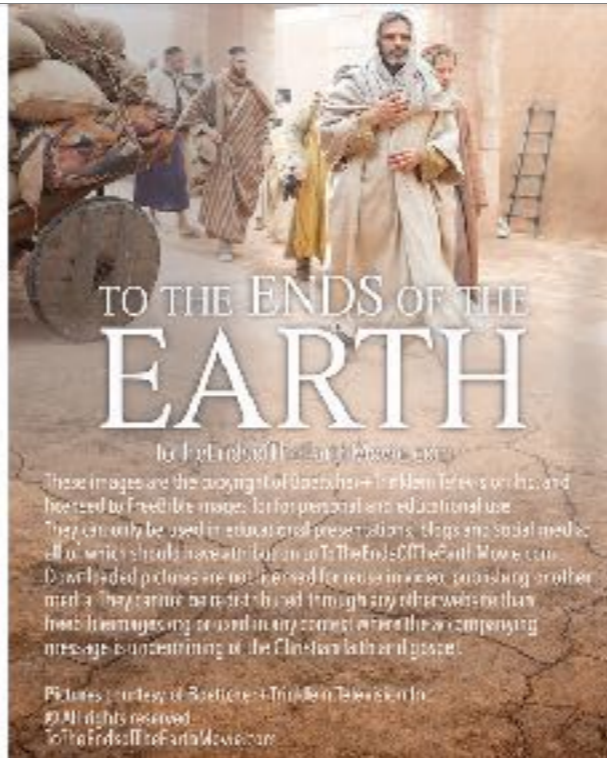
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Be Transformed

#18

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
2020 September 13

www.1corinthians1614.com

Be Subject to Governing Authorities

Romans 13:1-7

Synopsis: One transformation that we struggle with as disciples is being subject to the government. In this lesson we'll examine what it means to be subject to the governing authorities, to not resist, and to obey God rather than men.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”