

SERIES: THE ROMAN ROAD***What's Your Rallying Cry?******Romans 13:1-7*****1. Christians submit to the authorities over them*****Romans 13:1-2***

¹Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

"Since no man has a natural authority over his fellow, and force creates no right, we must conclude that conventions form the basis of all legitimate authority among men."

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract, trans. Maurice Cranston (London: Penguin Books, 2004), Book I, sec. 3.

Submitting to the government top down or bottom up?

2. Christians serve their neighbors with good works***Romans 13:3-4***

³For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

3. Christians leave justice to the state***Romans 13:4-5***

⁴For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

Romans 13:6-7

⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.