

THE AFTERMATH

By Dr. Stephen G. Tan | Romans 13:1-7

DISCUSS

One of the ways followers of Jesus reflect Christlikeness to an unbelieving world is through how we relate with the government. How should we relate to the governing authorities that will be in place, especially if we do not like the elected leaders or did not vote for them? If they espouse policies and platforms which we believe are wrong or inconsistent with God's Word, to what extent do we submit to their authority and to what extent should we fight and protest? Read Romans 13: 1-7 and discuss the following biblical principles for how followers of Christ are to relate to governing authorities.

Submit to governing authorities because they are appointed by God (v. 1-2).

- Why are we told to submit to the authority of the government?
- What does it mean "just because God allows something to happen doesn't mean He approves of it."
- Why should we not blame God for our choices? What should you remind yourself of if you don't like the governing authorities?
- In what ways could it be that the leaders God allowed to be appointed can be for the blessing or discipline of a nation and its people?
- In what way can you be at peace if your choice of leaders were not elected?

Pray for our leaders as governments are God's channel for promoting good and maintaining order (v. 3-5).

- Why are government officials in power (v.4)?
- What should motivate Christians to submit to the government (v.5)?
- What should you think when the system of the government you are told to submit has rampant corruption, political intrigue, bribery, unfair trade

and business practices, etc. just like the Roman government that the apostle Paul was telling the Christians to submit?

- How can you voice out your displeasure to unfair practices by the government without compromising your testimony as a Christian?
- What does 1 Timothy 2:1-4 exhort us to do for those who are in authority? How often and what do you pray for for your leaders?

Fulfill our responsibilities and obligations under the law (v. 6-7).

- How should a Christian respond to the requirements of the government?
- Aside from tax revenues, what else should a Christian render to his or her government (v.7)? Should you make excuses to do these things for your government because you consider it corrupt and evil? How did Jesus respond when this issue was brought to Him in Mark 12:13-17? What did He mean with His response?
- How should you react to the fact that there will never be a perfect and righteous kingdom until Jesus Christ establishes the future Millennial Kingdom when He rules here on earth?

REFLECT

Paul concludes this chapter by reminding us that whenever we get bogged down with many fights in this life, remember that Jesus is coming soon and we must give an account of our lives, even as Christians (v. 11-12). Prayerfully examine yourself. What will we tell him we did with our time? What is it we fought for? What did we invest our energy, emotions, effort doing that counted for eternity?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, I am aware that many people are in different ways dealing with the aftermath of our recent local and national elections. May you help those who are struggling about it to be at peace. May you give us a heavenly mindset to encourage us to look beyond the disappointments of life. May you help us to submit to Your sovereignty in allowing governing authorities to be in their positions. Help us to learn to pray for our leaders and government. May you help us to exert our effort in doing your will and in sharing Jesus to others who do not know Him yet as their Savior. In Jesus' name I ask these things. Amen.