

Based on the preaching from Sunday **20 Sept, 2026**, 'Who's the Boss? Serving God and Caesar'

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Sermon Text: **Romans 13:1-7**

Key Ideas from the Sermon:

- Paul raises and answers important questions in these verses about the Christian's responsibility to the state, and by implication, the state's responsibility to the believer.
- Paul says we are to submit to the governing authorities because it is right (vv. 1-2). Government, as an institution, is from God, to restrain sin and provide a warning. Though some govern badly, the institution of government is still to be respected.
- We are also to submit to the governing authorities because it is wise (vv. 3-5), so we can live together peaceably. Only those who do wrong need fear the sword, though not all governments agree on what is right and what is the wrong which needs to be punished.
- We also submit and pay our taxes because it is fair to do so (vv. 6-7). Governing is not easy and it takes resources. Our democratic society provides a way to get involved in the process if we believe our taxes are too high or government is spending unwisely.
- We can submit to the authority of government even as we disobey that government. Disobedience is permitted if the government forbids that which God has commanded, or commands that which God has forbidden.



Bible Study: The Swedish Method [**Romans 13:1-7**]

1. Begin by praying, asking God to speak through His Word
2. Read the Bible passage aloud, being careful to read slowly
3. Go back over the passage (allow about 10 minutes of silence), being on the lookout for and taking note of the following four things:



Lightbulb: This should be something that 'shines' from the passage- whatever impacts most, or draws attention.

Notes:



Question mark: Anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question the reader might like to ask the writer of the passage, or the Lord.

Notes:



Jesus: What does this passage teach me about who Jesus is, what he has done for me and what it means for me to follow him in my life.

Notes:



Arrow: A personal application for the reader's life.

Notes: