1 of 2 Sermon Scriptures 9/11/22 9/11/22

**Romans 13:1–3 (NLT)** Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. 2So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. 3For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you.

**Romans 13:4–5 (NLT)** 4The authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God’s servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. 5So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

**Romans 13:6 (NLT)** 6Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do.

**Romans 13:6 (CSB)** And for this reason you pay taxes, since the authorities are God’s servants, continually attending to these tasks.

**Romans 13:7 (CSB)** Pay your obligations to everyone: taxes to those you owe taxes, tolls to those you owe tolls, respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor.

How can I honor a political leader when I don’t approve of him or her or endorse a lot of what they stand for?

There is a difference between strongly disagreeing with our political leaders and their ideologies and ***dishonoring*** them.

*“The increasingly secular West is only just beginning to experience the level of hostility that first-century believers faced; the 21st-century persecuted church experiences it every day. It is this type of ‘state’ which Paul tells the Christian to submit to.*” Tim Keller

2 of 2 9/11/22

**Romans 13:4 (CSB)** For it is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For it is God’s servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong.

“The sword is a symbol of the power delegated to governing authorities to enforce acceptable social conduct. Here we have the biblical basis for the use of force by government for the maintenance of law and order. The power to punish has been delegated by God to those who rule.68 To disobey the laws of the land, except where they contravene the express will of God, is to violate the purpose of God himself.” Robert Mounce Commentary

The government’s rule is not absolute in our lives. God’s Word is the only absolute.

Their coin had Caesar’s image on it, but whose image do you have stamped on you?

God’s image on you is the greater claim.

**1 Timothy 2:1–4 (NIV)** I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—2for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.