

The Truth That Transforms: The Book Of Romans
“The Truth About A Christian’s Response To Government”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
November 7, 2021

Big Idea: If we want real life change, we must allow God’s Word to transform us.

As Christians We Can Respond To Our Government By:

1. Trusting God To Work Through Authority

▪ **His Word**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

▪ **The Holy Spirit**

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Galatians 5:16 (NIV)

▪ **Our Parents**

"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you. **Deuteronomy 5:16 (NIV); Deuteronomy 6:4-7**

▪ **The Government**

“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”

Romans 13:1-2 (NIV)

2. Becoming A Responsible Citizen

For rulers hold **no terror** for those who **do right**, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? **Then do what is right and he will commend you. Romans 13:3 (NIV)**

▪ **Civil Authority Exists To Restrain Evil**

For **he is God's servant** to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the **sword** for nothing. **He is God's servant**, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the **wrongdoer**. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of **possible punishment** but also because of **conscience. Romans 13:4-5 (NIV)**

▪ **Pay Taxes**

This is also why you **pay taxes**, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. **Give everyone what you owe him:** If you owe **taxes**, pay taxes; if **revenue**, then revenue; if **respect**, then respect; if **honor**, then honor. **Romans 13:6 (NIV)**

3. Standing Up To Government When It Demands Something The Bible Forbids

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing **debt to love one another**, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "**Do not commit adultery,**" "**Do not murder,**" "**Do not steal,**" "**Do not covet,**" and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**" **Love does no harm to its neighbor.** Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. **Romans 13:8-10 (NIV)**

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men. **Titus 3:1-2 (NIV)**

- **Taking Of Innocent Life**

The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. **Exodus 1:17 (NIV)**

Rahab lied to protect the Israelite spies. **Hebrews 11:31 (NIV)**

- **Demanded To Worship A False God. Daniel 3:16-18**

- **Forbidden To Worship.** Daniel still prays three times a day. **Daniel 6:13**

- **Forbidden to Preach The Good News Of Jesus**

Peter & the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! **Acts 5:29**

- **Forced To Go Against Your Conscience**

A religious accommodation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S. Code § 2000e), which prohibits discrimination against a sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance.

"Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

James 4:17 (NIV)

"So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. **Romans 14:12 (NIV)**

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)**

4. Preparing Ourselves For The Return Of Jesus

And do this, **understanding the present time.** The hour has come for you to **wake up** from your slumber, because **our salvation** is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us **put aside the deeds of darkness** and put on the **armor of light.** Let us **behave decently**, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, **clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ**, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. **Romans 13:11-14 (NIV)**

➤ How does God want me to represent Him?

My next right step, I will:

- [] Stand firm in my faith without being rude
- [] Demonstrate love in all of my relationships
- [] Sign up for Believer's Baptism Nov. 21

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

Big Idea: If we want real life change, we must allow God’s Word to transform us.

Open your group with a prayer.

Icebreaker: What aspects of government do you like?

As Christians We Can Respond To Our Government By:

1. Trusting God To Work Through Authority

▪ **His Word**

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

What is the origin and purpose of scripture?

What is your habit of reading God’s Word?

▪ **The Holy Spirit**

Read Galatians 5:16

How does the Holy Spirit guide us?

▪ **Our Parents**

Read Deuteronomy 5:16

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Why is honoring our parents important?

How are parents to raise their children?

▪ **The Government**

Read Romans 13:1-2

What does this verse teach us about where authority comes from?

Who are the governing authorities that you deal with the most?

2. Becoming A Responsible Citizen

Read Romans 13:3-5

How can you show respect to the police?

3. Standing Up To Government When It Demands Something The Bible Forbids **Read Romans 13:8-10**

How does love fulfill all of the commands?

Read Titus 3:1-2

In what ways can we show true humility, be peaceful and considerate to those in authority over us?

- **Taking Of Innocent Life**

Read Exodus 1:17

If you were with these women, what would be the danger of doing this?

Read Hebrews 11:31

If lying is a sin, why is Rahab honored?

- **Demanded To Worship A False God. Daniel 3:16-18**

How did the Hebrew men respond to the king's command?

- **Forbidden To Worship. Daniel 6:13**

How important is your prayer life to your daily routine?

- **Forbidden to Preach The Good News Of Jesus**

Read Acts 5:29

What would be your threat assessment if you were there?

What was the response of the apostles when told not to preach about Jesus?

- **Forced To Go Against Your Conscience**

Read James 4:17

Read Romans 14:12

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Read Psalm 139:13

How do these verses help you?

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<https://meganredshaw.substack.com/p/how-to-covid-religious-exemption>

<https://www.nebraskamed.com/COVID/you-asked-we-answered-do-the-covid-19-vaccines-contain-aborted-fetal-cells>

4. Preparing Ourselves For The Return Of The Jesus

Read Romans 13:11-14

How does Paul's urgency in verse 11 influence you?

How do you obtain the clothing in verse 14?

Where do you need to be more like Jesus?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.