

# Romans 13:1-7

## Submission to Governing Authorities

- ◆ Let everyone be subject 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, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 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 you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents 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 as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.
- ◆ This is an important lesson especially at this time when the authorities are corrupt, evil and doing all sorts of bad things. The worldly reaction to this kind of authority is to rebel, sabotage and others a like. Thinking of the Chimurenga, how we fought to oust the white rule, that was rebelling against authority. We got our freedom but now that freedom is doing us no good, the living conditions are worse than those during the white rule. The rebelling did us no good, we've gotten ourselves worse authority. All the rebelling we see in the world is coming at a cost of peace, it leaves hatred in the hearts and other bad things. I'm not sure if the good outweighs the bad. Even in the bible, when the Israelites rebelled against authority, things fell apart for them.
- ◆ The bible which is ancient wisdom and has seen it all since the creation of the world, it is instructing us to respect the authority in place because that authority has been placed by God. It then goes on to instruct us to do good always, this will help us live in harmony with the authority; we'll not fear authority if we do what is right. On the other hand if we do what is wrong, the authority will bring punishment/wrath upon us; this will yield fear of authority in us.
- ◆ The authority is God's servant. Beside possible punishment, we should submit to authority for our own conscience. A clear conscience brings peace of mind, jubilation and other good feelings/benefits. Pay your taxes, give everyone what you owe them (i.e taxes, revenue, respect, honour, etc). Doing such clears the conscience. If you don't do this you'll live in fear of the worst happening to you, your conscience will keep reminding you of this.
- ◆ I trust in the word of God more than in the world, hence, I will follow the bible rather than rebellion that I might want to do.