

Scripture: Romans 12:1-6

OPEN:

1. Can you think of a time when following a rule felt really annoying—but later you realized it actually helped you or someone else?

DIG:

1. Verse 1 – “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities...” How do we reconcile this command with situations where authorities are unjust or act against godly values?
2. Verse 2 – Paul says that resisting authority is resisting what God has appointed. How can we discern when civil disobedience is a matter of faithfulness versus rebellion?
3. Verse 3-4 – These verses describe rulers as God’s servants for our good. How does this passage shape our expectations of government, and how should we respond when leadership fails to live up to that role?
4. Verse 5 – Paul urges submission not only to avoid punishment, but for conscience’ sake. What does it mean to obey out of conscience, and how does that impact the way we engage with laws we personally disagree with?
5. Verse 6 – “Because of this you also pay taxes...” How can we view paying taxes and participating in civil society as part of our spiritual responsibility rather than just a legal obligation?

6. Acts 5:27-32 — Compare with Rom 13:1-6 (our passage). What overriding principles do you find in these passages for guiding the Christ follower's relationship with authority?

REFLECT:

1. So after reading this part of Romans, how does it make you think differently about things like following rules, paying taxes, or even how you talk about leaders? Does it change anything about how you live out your faith day to day?