

"HEAVEN'S CITIZENS SUBJECT TO CIVIL AUTHORITY"

ROMANS 13:1-5

I. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MANDATE TO SUBMISSION TO HIGHER POWERS (13:1)

- A. It Does Not Advocate An Absolute, Blind Obedience Irrespective Of Circumstance.
 - 1. The Term Instructs Us Literally To "Arrange Under" The Respective Authority.
 - 2. The Term Instructs Us Through A Survey Of Its New Testament Usage.
- B. It Does Insist That All People, Both Christian And Pagan Are To Be Submissive To The Existing Civil Authorities.
 - 1. We Must Realize What The Passage Does Not Tell Us.
 - 2. We Must Realize How The Lord Historically Established The Validity Of Human Government.

II. THE MANDATE COMES WITH TWO EXPLICIT REASONS FOR COMPLIANCE (13:5)

- A. Because Of Conscience
 - 1. God Is The Author Of All Authority
 - 2. God Is Sovereign Over The Authorities He Has Established
 - 3. God Is The Self Existing Limitation On Human Government
 - a. The Great Commission Takes Precedent Over Civil Law
 - b. The Moral Law Of God Takes Precedent Over Civil Law
- B. Because Of Wrath
 - 1. Have You Considered The Seriousness Of Resisting Authority? (13:2)
 - 2. Have You Considered The General Posture Of Human Government? (13:3)
 - 3. Have You Considered The Nature Of God's Wrath In Governmental Punishment? (13:4)
 - 4. Have You Considered The Credentials The Government Has For Functioning In This Realm Of Wrath? (13:4)