

INSIGHTS ON ROMANS: THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

HOW TO BE A GODLY REBEL

ROMANS 13:1-7



The Heart of the Matter

God's people often are in a dilemma. While we are citizens of heaven, we're nevertheless instructed to be good and involved citizens of our country. Scripture commands us to both obey God and to submit to human governing authorities. But what do we do when those two realms of authority come into conflict? Do we yield to the biblical injunctions to obey God regardless? Or do we follow the equally authoritative biblical imperatives to obey the civil government? Jesus said to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's" (Luke 20:25), yet godly men and women occasionally rebelled against the rule of human authorities. At the same time, we encourage respect for governmental authorities. Which is correct? Aren't there times when it's right to rebel?



Discovering the Way

1. Three Difficult Dilemmas

What would you do if you lived in the colonies during the American Revolution, or in the Deep South during the American Civil War, or in Germany during World War II?

2. Two Popular Extremes

Some people often exhibit an inappropriate independence from government or an uninvolved indifference toward government.

3. One All-Important Principle (Romans 12:21)

Disobedience toward civil authority is justified when that authority attempts to force us to disobey God.

4. Helpful Biblical Guidelines (Romans 13:1-7)

Paul provided an essential reminder (Romans 13:1), guidance on the issue of inappropriate resistance (13:2-5), and the issue of appropriate obedience (13:6-7).

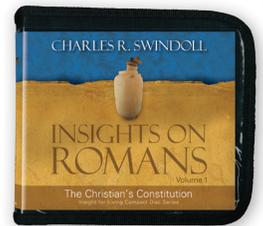


Starting Your Journey

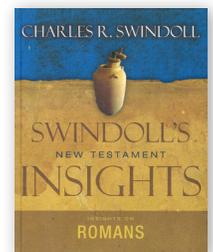
Obeying God is always the right thing to do. Obeying government is usually right and good.



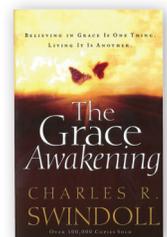
Tools for Digging Deeper



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INSIGHT FOR LIVING

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