

God's Answers in Romans: Who's The Boss of Me?

1. Read Romans 13.

2. Was there anything in the sermon that concerned you, helped you or confused you?

3. In the kingdom of God, who is the king? Who makes the laws?

4. "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness." --1 John 3:4

anomia = "without law" ("a" = without, "nom" = law), lawlessness

- antinomian = against law
- autonomy = self law; making your own rules

Can we be autonomous and also in a right relationship with God?

What is the connection between obeying God and obeying human authorities?

5. Read Ephesians 6:4-8. Explain what you think Paul means by wholehearted obedience or submission in verses 7 and 8.

6. To what extent do you feel that many Christians badmouth government officials?

7. Please share with the group your own self-perception regarding the extent to which you are a "Romans 13 Citizen" of your country. When you think of the different human authorities that God has put in your life, do you feel that the Holy Spirit is telling you to work on any of the following areas:

- submission from the heart, obedience,
- respect, honor,
- graciousness and gentleness,
- badmouthing,
- loving and serving those who have wronged you.

8. Read Romans 8:28. In your own life, have you ever felt that God took something stupid or evil that someone did to you, redeemed it, and used it to bless you by making you more like Jesus or better equipped to serve others?

9. When you are disappointed with the human government set over you, how might that disappointment motivate you:

**A. To look to the kingdom of God.**

**B. To look to God**

10. How can we pray for you?

God is good. All the time.

All the time. God is good.

In the end, all will be well.

If all is not well, it's not the end yet

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## Supplemental Materials:

"Then he said to them, 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.'"--Matthew 22:21

"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD;  
he turns it wherever he will." --Proverbs 21:1 RSV

Jeremiah 7:23-24: But this command I gave them: 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.' 24 But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. ESV

1 John 5:2-4: For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. ESV

1 Peter 2:13-18

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. 16 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. 17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. 18 Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except all those others that have been tried from time to time.--Winston Churchill

Review from last week:

### "Romans 12 Church"

1. **D**edicated, living sacrifices
2. **U**sing our spiritual gifts to serve
3. **D**eep devotion and affection for each other
4. **E**agerly forgive, bless and serve those who wrong us.

**Justification:** declared righteous before God

**Sanctification:** gradually transformed by the Spirit

**Vocation:** meaningful, important work alongside Jesus

