

Government Was God's Idea
Romans 13:1,2

Command: submit to your governing authorities. 1a

- ◆ Recall context of 12:17-21 and Paul's experiences with authorities.
- ◆ See similar commands in Titus 3:1, I Peter 2:21-23
- ◆ The spirit of submission = I Cor. 15: 27,28, 16:16, Eph. 1:22, 5:24.

Reason #1: God is over all governments. 1b

- ◆ Government has a divine origin, and God puts rulers/regimes in place. See 9:17,18, Jer. 27:5-7, Dan. 2:21, 4:17,25, 7:12,26,27 I Sam. 9:16, I Kgs. 19:15,16, Ezra 1:1,2, Isa. 44:28, 45:1, Jn. 19:11.
- ◆ But why does God allow/appoint some rotten rulers? Pr. 16:4

Reason #2: Resisting the government = resisting God. 2a

It logically follows that if God puts rulers/regimes in place then to resist them is to resist God Himself, which clarifies how serious it is to have a casual attitude towards our laws/governing authorities.

Warning: God will bring judgment on those who resist. 2b

- ◆ Judgment here may include government punishments but most certainly includes God's judgment since resistance is against Him, and not all law-breaking is caught by the authorities. This judgment is not "damnation," (KJV) as King James I preferred).
- ◆ But what does resistance to governing authorities by various people in Scripture suggest? See Ex. 1:16,17, I Sam. 14:43-46, I Kgs. 18:13, Dan. 3:16-18, 6:6-10, Acts 4:18-20, 5:27-29.

What might be some possible guidelines to help decide when it is really appropriate to resist our governing authorities?

What tendency must we be so careful to avoid?

