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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**POWERS ORDAINED OF GOD**

**Romans 13:1-7**

***Romans 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."***

Subjection to the government is the obligation of all mankind, especially Christians. No human has power except it is ordained of God. Even satan’s power is from God. Without God’s permission he can’t do anything, any anything God allows him to do is for a greater good.

***Genesis 1:26-28***

***26And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.***

***27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.***

***28And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.***

***Titus 3:1-2***

***1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,***

***2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.***

***Acts 26:16-18***

***16But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;***

***17Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,***

***18To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.***

***Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***

In our society today, authority of every kind is being challenged. It begins in the home. In God's plans, the man is the head of the house and the woman is the head of the children.

***1 Corinthians 11:1-3***

***1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.***

***2Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.***

***3But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.***

***1 Timothy 2:11-15 11Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.***

***12But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.***

***13For Adam was first formed, then Eve.***

***14And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.***

***15Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.***

Secular humanists believe that humanity is capable of morality and self-fulfillment without belief in God. Secular humanism is a lifestance, or what Council for Secular Humanism founder Paul Kurtz has termed a eupraxsophy: a body of principles suitable for orienting a complete human life. The belief that man has the capacity or the ability to govern himself without God is spiritual anarchy (a spiritual state of disorder due to absence or nonrecognition of spiritual authority).

***1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.***

***Jeremiah 10:23-24***

***23 O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.***

***24 O Lord, correct me, but with judgment, not in Thine anger, lest Thou bring me to nothing.***

Humanists and anarchists also teach that our children are the center of everything, and because of this, children are rebelling. In most large schools in our country today, crime is very evident. A few years ago, this was not true, because student were taught respect for the teachers and principals. Even in the military, we see a breakdown of authority. We have even lost respect for our government officials. However, the bible warned us of these times.

***II Timothy 3:1-5***

***1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.***

***2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,***

***3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,***

***4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;***

***5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."***

***I Peter 2:13-16***

***13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;"***

***14Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."***

***15For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:***

***16 As free, and not using [your] liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.***

If we question too strongly the person in authority, we need to first stop and think who gave him or her that authority. God gave them the authority, and if we are fighting against them, we are in a sense fighting God.

***Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.***

We are not above the man’s law because we are Christians. We are to obey the God and submit to governments. The only time it is permissible to disobey authority is when it is in opposition to God's teachings. Obedience and submission are God’s requirements for peace and civility, but they are not mutually exclusive. You can obey without submitting and you can submit without obeying. Submission is about placing yourself under someone’s authority and oversight. It’s not merely about your action, but about your relationship to them. The bible requires every person to submit to another person’s authority. God is a God of law, order, and authority.

***Hebrews 13:16-17***

***16But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.***

***17Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.***

***Ephesians 5:22***

***20Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;***

***21Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.***

***22Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.***

***1 Peter 5:5***

***5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble***.

***Genesis 16:8-10***

***8And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.***

***9And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.***

***10And the angel of the Lord said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.***

Submission says, “I acknowledge your authority”, You’re in charge and I’m not. I will pray for you, honor and respect your judgement.” Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are Old Testament examples of submission. They respected the Babylonian leaders who were over them. They were not rude, confrontational, seditious, or rebellious. In obedience to God, **they honored the king and his representatives, but they didn’t always obey their requests or instructions.** They would not eat certain unclean foods (Daniel 1) or worship a statue (Daniel 3)**.** Daniel would not stop praying to God (Daniel 6). But even in their disobedience to man’s commands, they were submissive to man’s authority. They acknowledged and yielded to the King’s authority to punish them and put them to death if he saw fit to do so. In the New Testament Peter and the Apostles followed the same biblical principles.

***Acts 5:29-32***

***29Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.***

***30The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.***

***31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.***

***32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.***

Damnation in this passage is not eternal damnation but the consequence of your actions of disobedience to God and lack of submission to man.

***Romans 3:8 And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.***

***1 Corinthians 11:29-30***

***29For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.***

***30For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.***

***1 Timothy 5:11-14***

***11But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;***

***12Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.***

***13And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.***

***14I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.***

***Romans 13:3 "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:"***

The ultimate purpose of human government is to uphold the good, correct the bad, and punish the evil. Man’s laws are temporal and should support the eternal laws God. Man’s laws can never legislate morality, but God’s people can effectively witness by living moral lives before others.

***1 Timothy 1:8-10***

***8But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;***

***9Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,***

***10For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;***

***Proverbs 14:35 The king's favour [is] toward a wise servant: but his wrath is [against] him that causeth shame.***

***I Peter 3:13 And who [is] he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?***

***Romans 13:4 "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to [execute] wrath upon him that doeth evil."***

This really is saying that if we have broken the law, we can expect to be punished. If we speed and are caught, we should suffer the consequences. If we are not caught, be sure God keeps good records. Even when man’s law is unjust, biased and prejudiced, believers are to be submissive advocates of justice, equality and righteousness.

***Numbers 32:23***

***23But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.***

***1 Timothy 5:24-25***

***24Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.***

***25Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.***

***Micah 6:8***

***8He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?***

***Ecclesiastes 12:13***

***13Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.***

***Romans 13:5 " Wherefore [ye] must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."***

You have heard the expression [let your conscience be your guide] if you are a Christian that is very good advice, when you are obedient to God and submissive to man. The Christian has the laws of God written on the fleshly part of their heart. We should be guided by what is pleasing unto God. However, if we are not careful, our conscience can be wrong which leads to disobedience.

***Acts 24:16 "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and [toward] men."***

***II Corinthians 1:12 "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you- ward."***

***Psalms 37:31 "The law of his God [is] in his heart; none of his steps shall slide."***

***Hebrews 10:16 "This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;"***

***Hebrews 10:22***

***22Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.***

***Hebrews 13:18***

***18Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.***

***Titus 1:14-16***

***14Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.***

***15Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.***

***16They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.***

***1 Timothy 4:1-3***

***1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;***

***2Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;***

***3Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.***

***Romans 13:6 "For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing."***

The Christian citizen, in obedience to God and submission to man, should pay taxes. Likewise, it is needful for the Christian to be actively involved in government so that the government remains consistent with God’s law. Jesus’ example of this very fact should be our guide. Even though he was not subject to man’s laws (just or not), he submitted to them, so His message and ministry wouldn’t be hindered.

***Matthew 17:24-27***

***24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute [money] came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?"***

***25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?"***

***26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free."***

***27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee."***

***Romans 13:7 "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."***

In our society today, it has become fashionable to disrespect authority of all kinds. A few years ago, our mothers taught us to respect others, even when other didn’t respect us. This is the same thing God says in His Word. Even the world who does not have Jesus should be shown respect, if they are in higher office. It is really respect for the office we are showing. We must remember that a person is in that particular office because God put him there. When we show respect for the president, we are really showing respect for God’s law and order. In summing up this lesson, we can see the importance of having great respect for God. We must respect Him and trust Him enough that we will also respect the people He has put in authority. Remember if we do not respect those in authority, we are saying that God was not wise in choosing that person for that job and are breeding a culture of rebellion. We must not question God’s motives or accuse God foolishly, He knows best.

***Mark 12:14-17***

***14And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?***

***15Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.***

***16And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's.***

***17And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.***

***I Peter 2:17 "Honour all [men]. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."***

**Questions**

1. Let every soul be subject to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. There is no power but of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. In God's plan, who is the head of the home?
4. What has taught our children that they are the center of everything?
5. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. When we question the authority of someone, who are we really fighting?
7. In Romans ch.13 v.2, Whosoever resisteth the power will receive what?
8. Who are rulers a terror to?
9. The ultimate purpose of human government is to uphold the \_\_\_\_\_\_, correct the \_\_\_\_\_, and punish the \_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. When man’s law is unjust, biased and prejudiced, believers are to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ advocates of justice, equality and righteousness.
11. Should a Christian let his or her conscience be their guide?
12. Where is the conscience located?
13. If Jesus did not owe taxes, why did He pay them?
14. Where did they find the money to pay the taxes for Jesus?
15. Render therefore to all their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
16. Honour all\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
17. Love the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
18. Fear\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
19. Honour the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
20. When we show respect for the president, what are we really showing respect for?