

# Sermon-based Discussion Questions

“Submitting to Authorities” from 5/31/2020  
Romans 13:1-7

SPOILER ALERT:      *You may not want to read these until  
AFTER you have heard the sermon.*

1. In general, would you say that your personal tendency is to strictly follow the rules, to stretch the rules a little, or to break the rules? Explain. How would you describe the tendency of other people around you?
2. Do you find Romans 13:1-7 to be comforting, frustrating, confusing, or something else? Explain. How might these verses connect with Romans 12:17, “Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone”?
3. What might be some exceptions of when we should NOT submit ourselves to a particular authority? How can Scripture and other godly wisdom help us to correctly discern these exceptions?
4. How might you answer someone who asks you, “How does ‘submitting to authorities’ apply to the recent police incident with George Floyd?” What criteria might you use to decide if it may be time to protest or even revolt against the governing authorities?
5. Why do you think that Romans 13 mentions that the governing authorities bear the sword? Why do you think it refers to them as “God’s servants”?
6. What is the significance of paying our taxes and respecting authority? What advice might you give to a fellow believer who is struggling to do this?
7. How can we encourage one another to submit ourselves to the authorities in our lives this week? (Read Jeremiah 29:7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17) If you’d like, close by reading or singing the words of the hymn, “Be Thou My Vision.”