



## Heaven's Citizens and Human Government

JP Robinson

May 25th, 2025

Read Romans 13:1-7 and discuss the following:

1. What does Paul mean when he says, “there is no authority except that which God has established” (v.1)? How does this shape our understanding of God’s sovereignty in relation to human governments?
2. Are there limits to the obedience Christians owe to the state? When, if ever, is civil disobedience justified for a Christian? Can you think of biblical or historical examples?
3. What should you do if an authority figure (at work, in government, in family) asks you to do something you believe is wrong? Have you ever had to choose between obedience to God and obedience to a human authority? How did you handle it?
4. How can an unsubmitive attitude toward governing authorities point to our own struggle to submit to God’s authority?
5. In what ways does submission to human authorities serve the greater mission of the Church? How might rebellion, or even apathy toward authority, hinder the gospel?
6. How can we be an example for Christ to our family, our neighborhood, workplace, or online, by the way we submit to and engage with authority?
7. How often would you say that you pray for those in authority over you? How can we encourage each other to make this a common practice in our day-to-day lives?

End your group by praying for each other.

### Reminders:

- HCC formal church members are invited to a meeting on June 1st starting at 5:00pm. We encourage all who have been through the Check Us Out membership class and have turned in your membership paperwork to attend. Meeting will be held in the auditorium. If you have questions about your membership, please email Annie Chase [anniec@harpethcc.com](mailto:anniec@harpethcc.com).
- Summer classes are kicking off soon! Join us on Wednesdays starting June 4th – August 13th with three exciting class options! Click the link below to learn more and register. Childcare is provided.  
<https://harpethcc.com/events/summer-classes/2025-06-04>
- This summer at VBS, kids will discover how they fit into God's incredible story—just like Joseph did! With storytelling, music, games, and hands-on fun, they'll learn that while the world tells us to fit in, only God shows us where we truly belong. Click the link below to register your child or sign up to join the VBS crew!  
<https://harpethcc.com/events/vbs-2025/2025-07-14>
- Renew Christian Academy (RCA) is looking for Christ-centered mentors for the 2025-2026 school year. If you know someone who might be interested in this opportunity email Shannon Carpino at [shannonc@renewchristianacademy.com](mailto:shannonc@renewchristianacademy.com).