

*Finding Balance between Protest and Surrender*  
**Romans 13:1-7**  
**November 13, 2016**

Introduction

**Affirming Christ while submitting to a secular government**

Affirming God's sovereignty: Romans 13:1-7

Affirming God's providence:

Implications for the church:

1. Submission is different than obedience. Acts 5:29
2. Always do the right thing! Matthew 22:21; 26:52
3. The church is not ultimately a political agent.

### ***Romans 13:1-7***

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup> For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

<sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

### **Acts 5:29**

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!"

### **Matthew 22:21**

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

### **Matthew 26:52**

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword."