



## Week Four

*Romans 12:9-21 "How Christians Relate to Government"*

### SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life. Leader's Notes have been included to help in your preparation. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there's no need to go through them all.

To learn more, visit [silverdalebc.com/smallgroups](http://silverdalebc.com/smallgroups).

## ICEBREAKER OPTIONS

- What's a funny or memorable interaction you've had with authority (e.g. police, teachers, parents)?
- If you could make one new law for our country, what would it be and why?

### 1 God Established the Government

#### Key Scripture:

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment."

- Romans 13:1-2

#### Discuss:

- How does knowing God establishes rulers (even imperfect ones) change your perspective on government?
- Where is the line between honoring authority and honoring God?
- Can you share a time when obedience to God required respectful disobedience to people?

#### Leader's Note:

All authority comes from God, even flawed rulers. Obedience to government reflects obedience to God—unless the law directly contradicts God's Word.

## 2 God's Purpose for Government

### Key Scripture:

"For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer."

- Romans 13:3-4

### Discuss:

- What examples have you seen of government protecting good or punishing evil?
- How does understanding God's design for government help us respond when it fails?
- Why is it important to remember that only the gospel—not government—can transform lives?

### Leader's Note:

Government's role is to protect the good and punish the evil. While it cannot change hearts, it restrains sin and creates order in society.

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## 3 Our Duty to the Government

### Key Scripture:

"Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed." - Romans 13:5-7

### Discuss:

- Which of Paul's instructions (obey, pay taxes, respect, pray, stand for righteousness, live with love) confronts your personal beliefs/ideology the most? Why?
- How have your politics shaped your view of Jesus, instead of letting Jesus shape your politics?
- Practically speaking, how can we pray for and respect leaders we disagree with?

### Leader's Note:

Christians are called to obey laws, pay taxes, respect leaders, pray for those in authority, and stand for righteousness. We are also called to live out our faith in love, changing the world one person at a time.

## + PRAY +

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Invite group members to pray for:

- Government leaders, both local and national, to have wisdom and integrity.
- Courage to stand for righteousness while showing respect.
- Hearts that overflow with love, changing “the world of one” this week.

Prayer Prompt: “Lord, thank You for placing us in this time and place. Help us to honor authorities as unto You, stand firm in Your truth, and live out Your love in tangible ways. Use us to bring Your kingdom to the world around us.”

### WEEKLY CHALLENGE

As followers of Jesus, we are called to love our neighbors and seek the good of our city. One powerful way we can do that is by serving through our local missions partnerships.



#### **The Challenge**

- **Explore Serve the City Opportunities**

Visit [silverdalebc.com/servethecity](https://silverdalebc.com/servethecity) to see a list of local ministry partners and community organizations Silverdale supports.

- **Sign Up to Serve Locally**

Choose one project or partnership and sign up to serve—individually or with your group.

- **Invite a Friend or Group Member**

Bring someone with you to serve and experience the joy of making an impact.



#### **Upcoming Events to keep on your group's radar:**

Forged: Men's Event - Sept. 27 | IMPACT Missions Conference - Nov. 5-9 | Illuminate - Dec. 1-4