

April 28, 2024

A number of years ago I worked for a short time as a manager in a government service. The director I worked under sent his manager team to a seminar on managerial leadership. Our instructor talked about the idea of “authority” - the legitimate authority according to agreed contracts that managers have, and how to use it appropriately, wisely, and effectively. His career had been as a pilot in the Canadian Armed Forces and then the head of training for pilots in the CAF. He knew a bit about authority! At one point he made the statement: **Authority only matters when we disagree.**

Today’s text flows out of 12:1-2 – totally surrendering into the mercy and grace in Jesus, and allowing that surrender to transform how we think about everything. Everything, including human government. Romans 13:1-7 is the most comprehensive teaching in the New Testament about how followers of Jesus are to think about and relate to human government. We might call our passage for today **Christian Citizenship 101.**

And, there is not one of us who won’t have some, “but what about” questions from our passage today!

- 1. What is the “default” mode of a transformed mind when it comes to thinking about and relating to human government?**
- 2. Why must that be the default mode?**
- 3. What should I expect from government?**
- 4. What about when I disagree with government?**
- 5. How can I grow in my attitude & appropriate response to human government?**

Reflection Questions:

1. What does my thinking about human government reveal about how well I am living from a transformed mind?
2. Are there ways in which I have been thinking more about my “rights” than about my “development”?
3. Does my attitude toward government reveal that I am resting in the sovereignty of God?

WILLINGDON CHURCH ELDERS

Phil Balzer

John Best

Roman Bondartchouk

Ken Dyck

Jim Eisenhauer

Alfred Gomez

Ray Harms-Wiebe

Ruben Heyn

Danny Lee

Paul Lee

Mark Loewen

Dave Marshall

Ken Redekopp

Rick Reimer

Vince Reimer

Norm Schmidt

Ed Thiessen

Wayne Wiebe

Tony Yao

Please continue to pray for the elders.

If you wish to contact an elder, please email elders@willingdon.org.