

# Romans



LIVING IN  
COMMUNITY

CHAPTERS 13-16

## Romans 13:1-7

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>for he is God's servant for your good.

## Romans 13:1-7

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. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

<sup>7</sup>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.

It is only a slight exaggeration to say that the history of the interpretation of Rom. 13:1–7 is the history of attempts to avoid what seems to be its plain meaning. At first glance, and taken on its own, this passage seems to require that Christians always, in whatever situation, obey whatever their governmental leaders tell them to do. Almost all Christians recoil from this conclusion. Our own sad experience of situations like the Holocaust during World War II suggests that genuine Christian devotion to God must sometimes require *disobedience* of the government.

Moreover, this sense finds support within the NT itself. The classic text is Acts 5:29, in which Peter and John respond to the Jewish leaders' order to stop teaching in Jesus' name: "We must obey God rather than human beings!" (see also Acts 4:18–20). Equally important is the book of Revelation, in which keeping the commandments of God in the face of governmental pressure to the contrary is a key indication of our faithfulness to Christ.



contex

context

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## **Romans 12:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

<sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



## Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

## Romans 12:9-21

<sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

# **1. Submit to the Government because it has been instituted by God**

## **Romans 13:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

## Psalm 75:6-7

<sup>6</sup>No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt themselves. <sup>7</sup>It is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.

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## **Daniel 4:17**

“ ‘The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.’

## John 19:7-11

<sup>7</sup>The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

<sup>8</sup>When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, <sup>9</sup>and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

<sup>11</sup>Jesus answered, “You would have no power [authority] over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”



## **Purpose of Government in God's Economy:**

*To provide human  
flourishing by  
providing order and  
restraining/punishing evil  
for the benefit of  
the people.*

## 2. Governmental laws are meant to restrain and punish evil

### Romans 13:3-4

<sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>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.



# The Rule of Law



# The Rule of Law

“ The rule of law is the foundation for healthy communities of justice, opportunity, and peace. ”

WILLIAM H. NEUKOM

*CO-FOUNDER & CEO, WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT*

# The Rule of Law

## rule • of • law

The rule of law is a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers four universal principles: accountability, just law, open government, and accessible and impartial justice.

**...for the sake of conscience**

**Romans 13:5**

**<sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.**



# Pay your taxes, and give revenue, respect and honor

## Romans 13:6-7

<sup>6</sup>For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>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.

**1040**

U.S.

Individual Income Tax Return

Form

For the year Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 20

Your first name and initial

If it's your first return, spouse's first name and initial


Home address (number and street). If you have a foreign address, list it here.

City, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, list it here.

Single


Married filing jointly (levied)





Balance is needed. On the one hand, we must not obscure the teaching of Rom. 13:1–7 in a flood of qualifications. Paul makes clear that government is ordained by God – indeed, that every particular governmental authority is ordained by God – and that the Christian must recognize and respond to this fact with an attitude of submission... On the other hand, we must not read Rom. 13:1–7 out of its broad NT context and put government in a position relative to the Christian that only God can hold.





Christians should give thanks for government as an institution of God; we should pray regularly for our leaders (1 Tim. 2:1–2); and we should be prepared to follow the orders of our government. But we should also refuse to give to government any absolute rights and should evaluate all its demands in the light of the gospel.





Erastianism (the state controls the church),

Theocracy (the church controls the state),

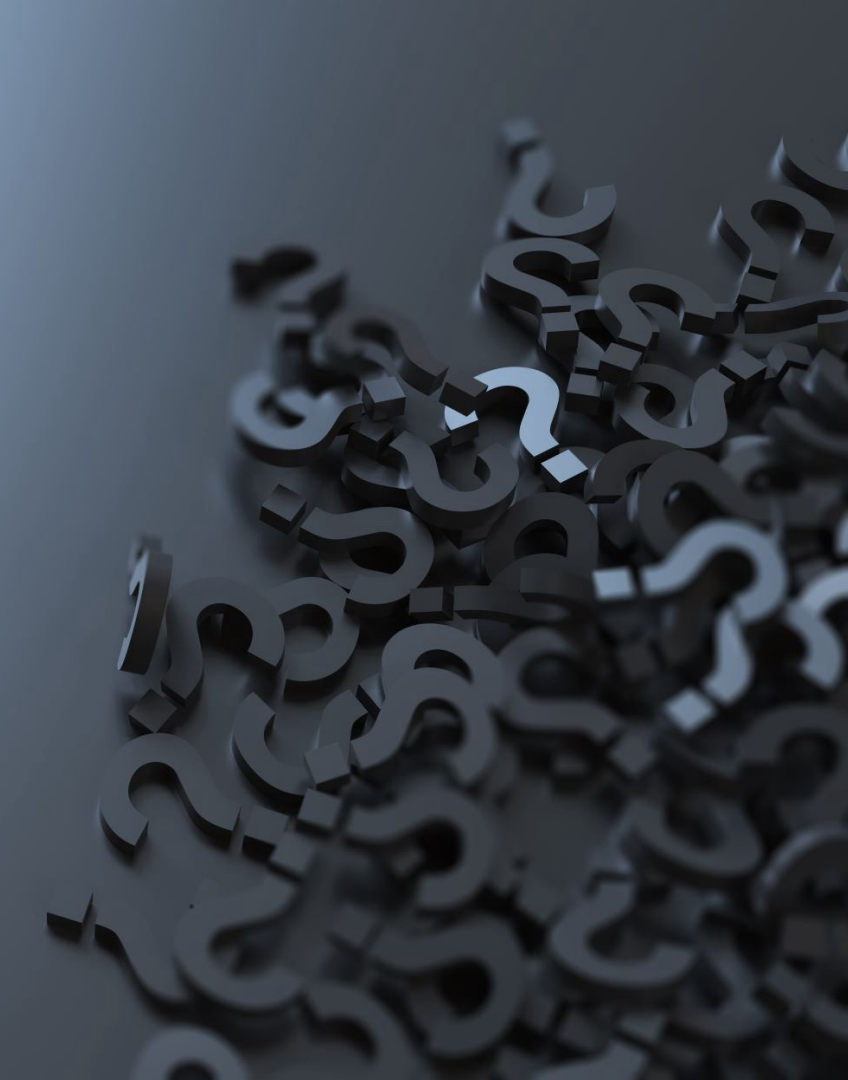
Constantinianism (the compromise in which the state favours the church and the church accommodates to the state in order to retain its favour), and

Partnership (church and state recognize and encourage each other's distinct God-given responsibilities in a spirit of constructive collaboration).

got questions?

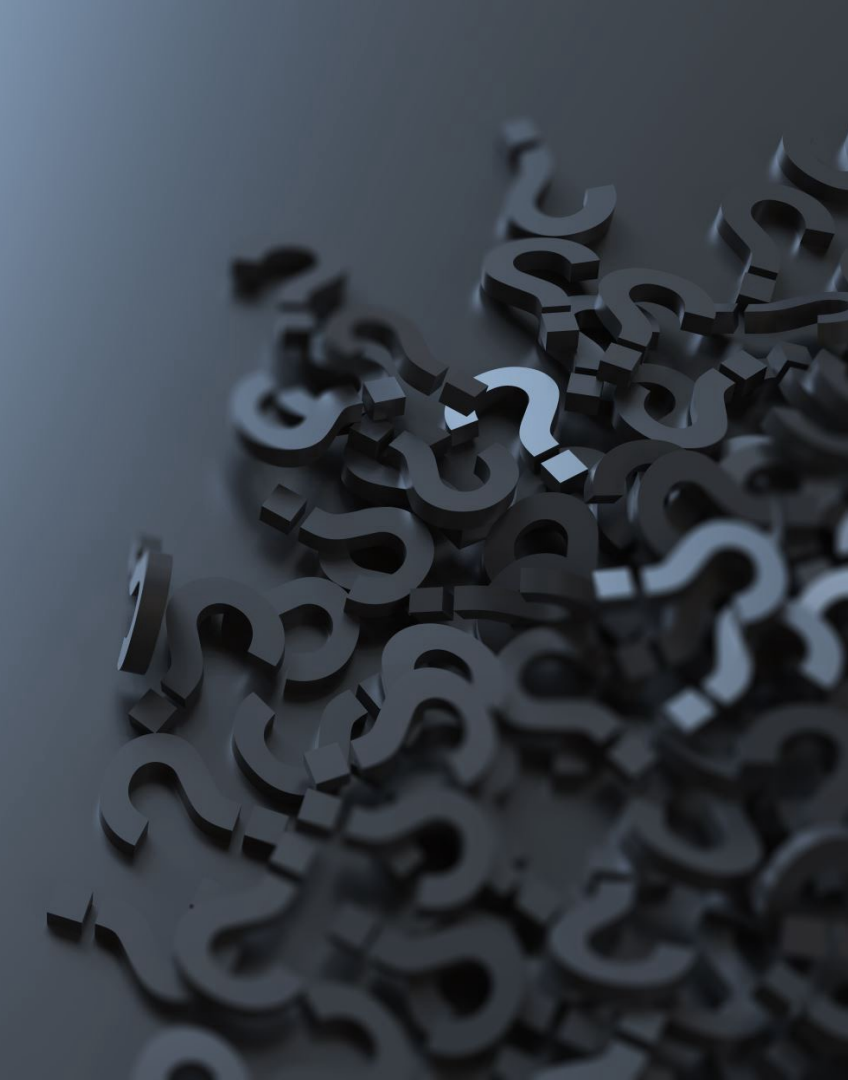


*Let's Tackle Two Big Questions:*



*Two Big Questions:*

How do we avoid the confusion  
of having “two masters”?



*Two Big Questions:*

How do we avoid the confusion of having “two masters”?

What does “submitting to the government” look like in a democracy?



PASSPORT



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# UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS



GEORGE WASHINGTON (1789-1797) JOHN ADAMS (1797-1801) THOMAS JEFFERSON (1801-1809) JAMES MADISON (1809-1817) JAMES MONROE (1817-1825) JOHN QUINCY ADAMS (1825-1829) ANDREW JACKSON (1829-1837) MARTIN VAN BUREN (1837-1841)



WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON (1841) JOHN TYLER (1841-1845) JAMES K. POLK (1845-1849) ZACHARY TAYLOR (1849-1850) MILLARD FILLMORE (1850-1853) FRANKLIN PIERCE (1853-1857) JAMES BUCHANAN (1857-1861) ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1861-1865)



ANDREW JOHNSON (1865-1869) LYNDSES S. GRANT (1869-1877) RUTHERFORD B. HAYES (1877-1881) JAMES A. GARFIELD (1881) CHESTER ARTHUR (1881-1885) GROVER CLEVELAND (1885-1889) BENJAMIN HARRISON (1889-1893) GROVER CLEVELAND (1893-1897)



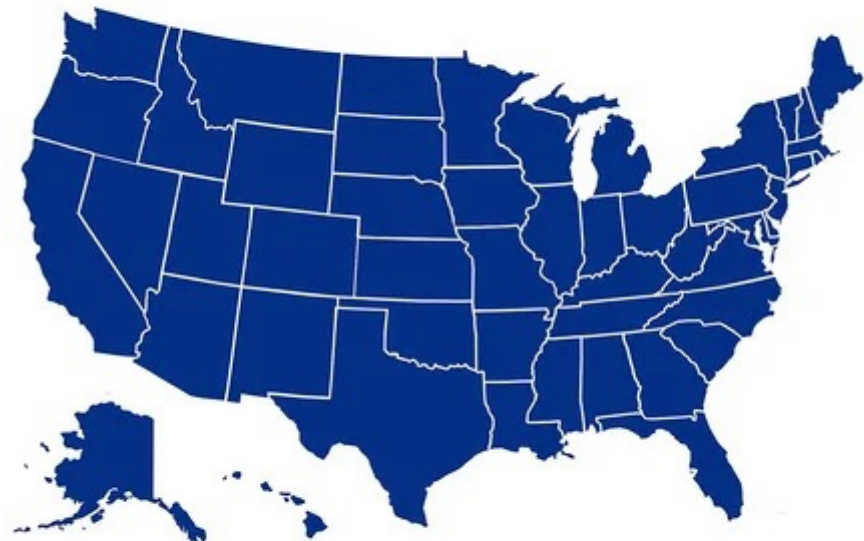
WILLIAM MCKINLEY (1897-1901) THEODORE ROOSEVELT (1901-1909) WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT (1909-1913) WOODROW WILSON (1913-1921) WARREN G. HARDING (1921-1923) CALVIN COOLIDGE (1923-1929) HERBERT HOOVER (1929-1933) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (1933-1945)



HARRY S. TRUMAN (1945-1953) DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (1953-1961) JOHN F. KENNEDY (1961-1963) LYNDON B. JOHNSON (1963-1969) RICHARD NIXON (1969-1974) GERALD FORD (1974-1977) JIMMY CARTER (1977-1981) RONALD REAGAN (1981-1989)



GEORGE BUSH (1989-1993) BILL CLINTON (1993-2001) GEORGE W. BUSH (2001-2009) BARACK OBAMA (2009-2017) DONALD TRUMP (2017- )



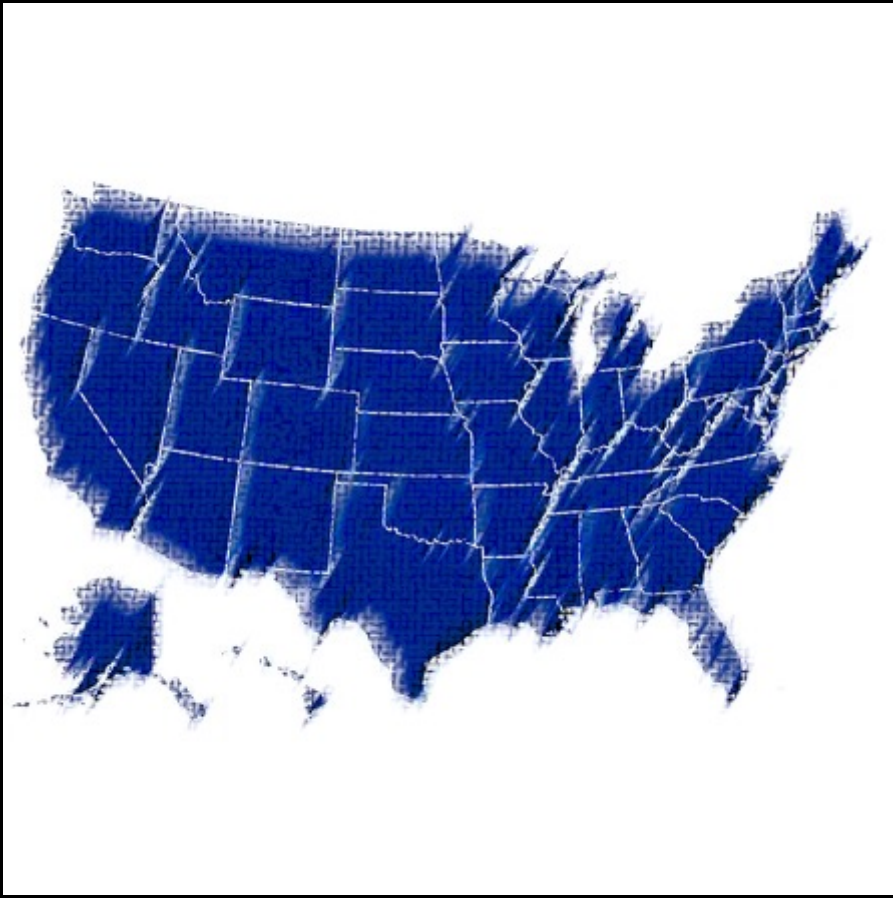


**They are not of the world,  
even as I am not of the world.**

*John 17:16*





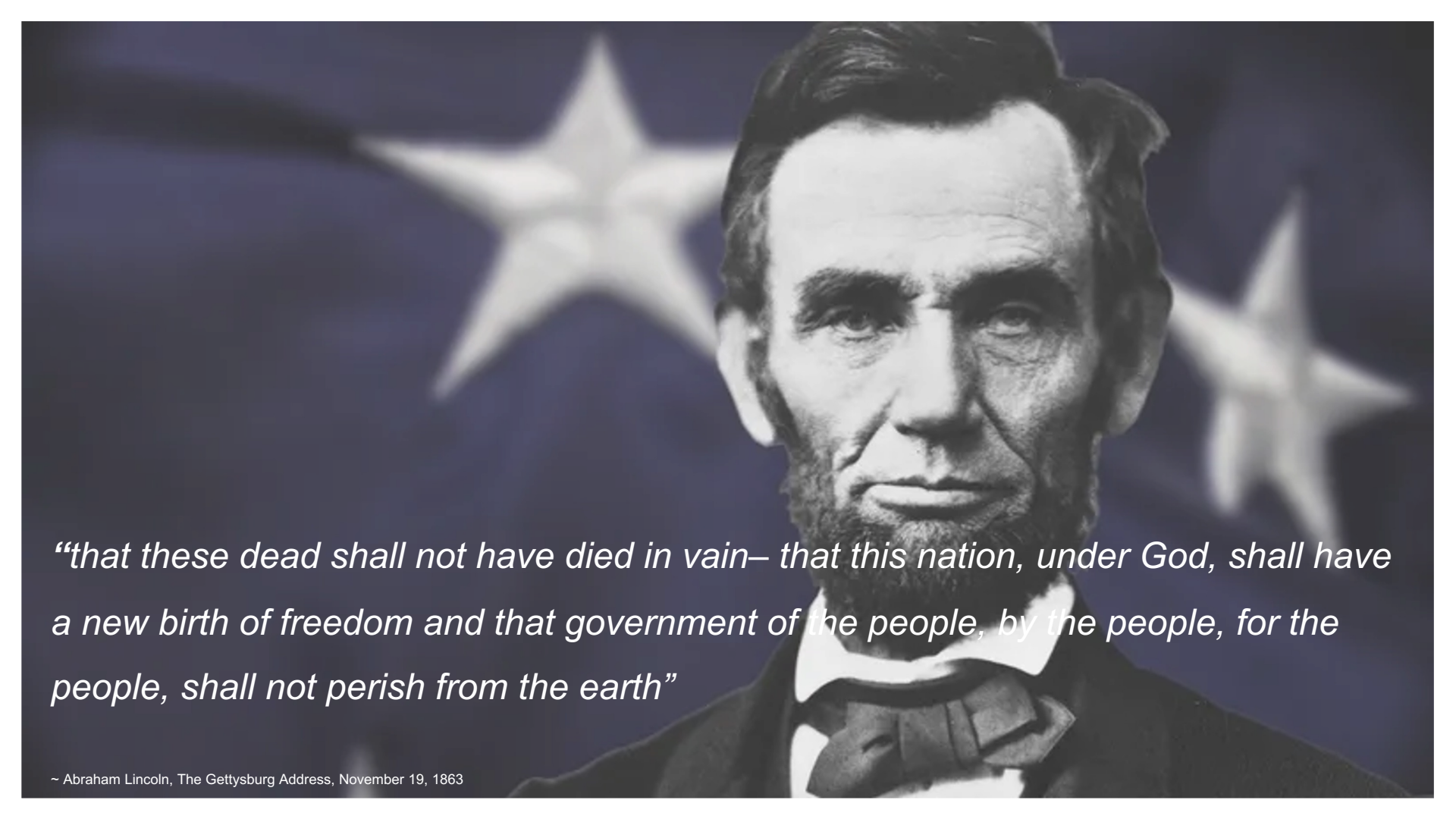




*Two Big Questions:*

How do we avoid the confusion of having “two masters”?

What does “submitting to the government” look like in a democracy?

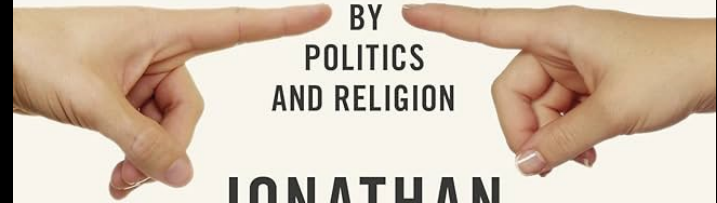


*“that these dead shall not have died in vain— that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”*

~ Abraham Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863

# THE RIGHTEOUS MIND

WHY GOOD PEOPLE  
ARE DIVIDED  
BY  
POLITICS  
AND RELIGION



JONATHAN  
HAIDT

'A landmark contribution to  
humanity's understanding of itself'  
THE NEW YORK TIMES



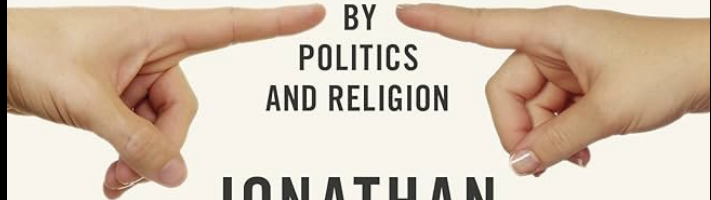


## 5 Morals Shared

Care  
Fairness  
Loyalty  
Authority  
Sanctity

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Celebrate it with a  
membership gift today!

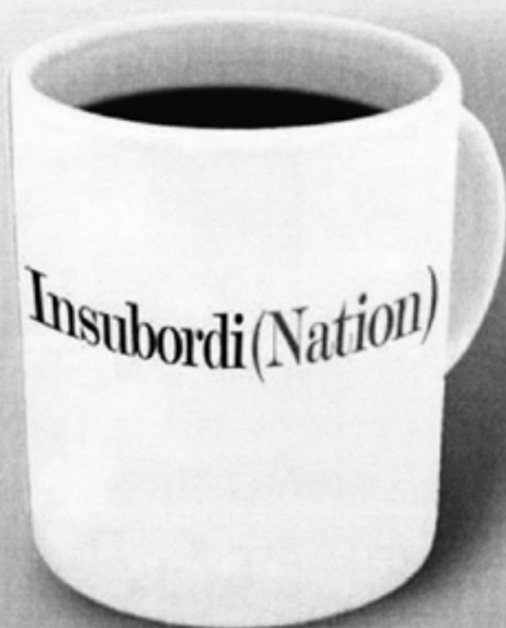
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**ALDERSGATE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45  
WORSHIP 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
SERMON:  
"GOD'S IN CHARGE -  
SO SHUT UP!"  
REV. BILL JONES PASTOR

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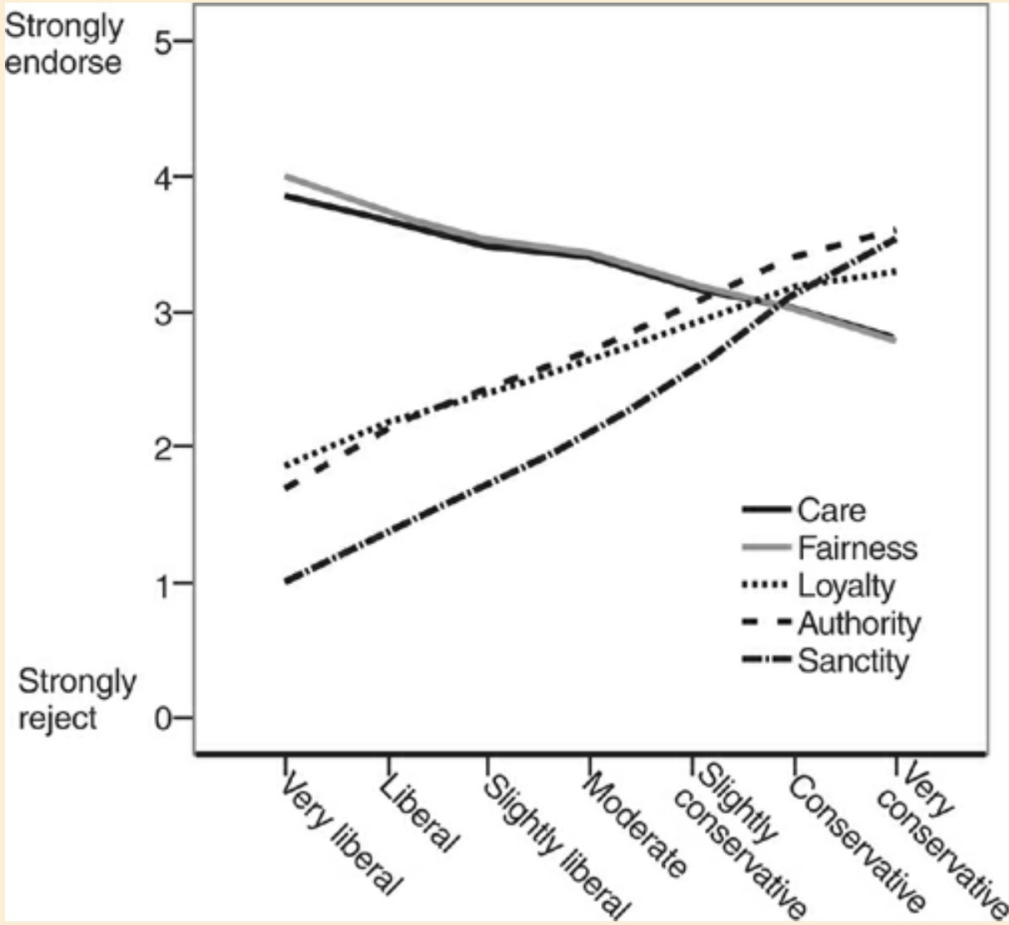
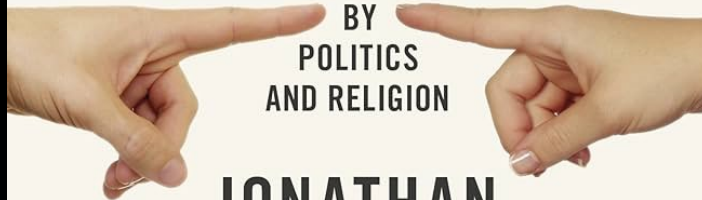


FIGURE 8.2. Scores on the MFQ, from 132,000 subjects, in 2011. Data from [YourMorals.org](http://YourMorals.org).

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HAIDT

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THE NEW YORK TIMES



“Liberals”

**Care**  
**Fairness**

Loyalty  
Authority  
Sanctity

“Conservatives”

**Authority**  
**Sanctity**  
**Loyalty**

Care  
Fairness

## Romans 12:1-2

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# Gospel Application

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WORSHIP JESUS.

Be a good citizen in your country.

# Gospel Application

WORSHIP JESUS.

Be a good citizen in your country.

Live out your transformation in Jesus so that you can listen, love and learn from those you disagree with.