

SERMON NOTES

July 12, 2026

Christians & Civil Disobedience

Romans 13:1-7 | Trent Thompson

When is it a Christian duty to disobey governing authorities and what principles should guide the way we do it?

Principles for Discernment in Civil Disobedience:

- 1. Know what you think about Church & State**
- 2. Reject Christian Nationalism as idolatry**
- 3. Have a clear command or clear injustice**
- 4. Show respect and honor**
- 5. Be willing to pay the price**

APPLYING GOD'S WORD (For LifeGroups)

LifeGroups are a place to commit to Christ-Centered relationships and grow in our faith together. Learn more at westshorefree.org/lifegroups.

LifeGroup Discussion Questions:

1. In your experience, are Christians good at discussing our relationship to governing authority? Why?
2. How thoughtfully developed do you think our theology of the relationship between Christians and the State is among believers in our part of the world? Why do you think this?
3. Read Romans 13:1-7. What new thoughts or questions has our examination of this passage prompted in you?
4. What stands out to you most about the civil disobedience of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3 & 6) and the Apostles (Acts 4&5)?
5. What do we lose if our default position to governing authority is not submission?
6. What do we lose if we have no category or will for civil disobedience?
7. What part of your approach to government and politics needs to be more fully given to Jesus? What will it look like when it is?

B.L.E.S.S. Question of the Week:

Think of one person God has sent you to, so that they would know Him through Jesus. What do you hope that person learns about God from your approach to governing authorities?

Memory Verse:

“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**

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