



JULY 29 & 30, 2023

Romans 13:1-5 (TPT)

Every person must submit to and support the authorities over him. For there can be no authority in the universe except by God's appointment, which means that every authority that exists has been instituted by God. So to resist authority is to resist the divine order of God, which results in severe consequences. For civil authorities don't intimidate those who are doing good, but those who are doing evil. So do what is right and you'll never need to fear those in authority. They will commend you for your good citizenship. Those in authority are God's servants for the good of society. But if you break the law, you have reason to be alarmed, for they are God's agents of punishment to bring criminals to justice. Why do you think they carry weapons? You are compelled to obey them, not just to avoid punishment, but because you want to live with a clean conscience.

A First Responder Is:

- An authority figure
- Divinely appointed
- A humble worker
- God's civil servant

HOW CAN I HONOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS?

1

Hold them up in respect and gratitude.

Matthew 5:9 (NLT)

God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

John 15:13 (NLT)

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

2

Offer constant prayers for them and their families.

1 Timothy 2:1-3 (TPT)

Most of all, I'm writing to encourage you to pray with gratitude to God. Pray for all men with all forms of prayers and requests as you intercede with intense passion. And pray for every political leader and representative, so that we would be able to live tranquil, undisturbed lives, as we worship the awe-inspiring God with pure hearts it is pleasing to our Savior God to pray for them.

3 Notice them before I actually need them.

Titus 3:1-2 (TPT)

Remind people to respect their governmental leaders on every level as law-abiding citizens and to be ready to fulfill their civic duty. And remind them to never tear down anyone with their words or quarrel, but instead be considerate, humble, and courteous to everyone.

- **Buy them a meal or thank you card**
- **Say hello and thank you**
- **Get out of the way so they can do their job**

4 Obey the law always.

Romans 2:13 (NLT)

For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight.

5 Resist the temptation to stereotype based on a few bad examples.

2 Corinthians 5:14-16 (TPT)

For it is Christ's love that fuels our passion and holds us tightly, because we are convinced that he has given his life for all of us. This means all died with him, so that those who live should no longer live self-absorbed lives but lives that are poured out for him—the one who died for us and now lives again. So, from now on, we refuse to evaluate people merely by their outward appearances. For that's how we once viewed the Anointed One, but no longer do we see him with limited human insight.

THE SOLUTION TO LIFE'S PROBLEMS IS LOVE.

Romans 13:8 (TPT)

Don't owe anything to anyone, except your outstanding debt to continually love one another, for the one who learns to love has fulfilled every requirement of the law.

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