

Twisted

“Say What? Or Says Who?”

How Am I to Respond to Governing Authorities in My Life?

1. As hard as it may be to believe, I am to *obey*.

- **Rom. 13:1-5:** “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ²Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. ⁴For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.”
- **Acts 5:28a, 29:** “‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name’ ... ²⁹Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than men!’”

2. As hard as it may be to believe, I am to *pay*.

- **Rom. 13:6-10:** “This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. ⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not covet,’ and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ¹⁰Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

3. As hard as it may be to believe, I am to *pray*.

- **1 Tim. 2:1-4:** “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”