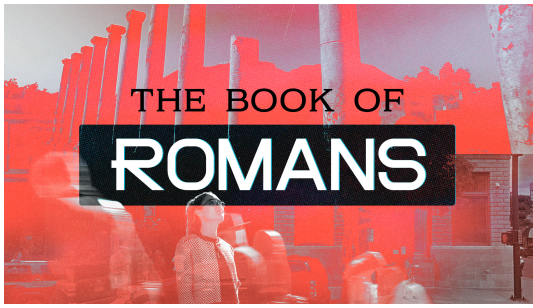




TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Book of Romans: Christian Citizenship

Jim Keena | Guest Speaker | July 12, 2026

Referenced Scripture: Romans 12:1-2, Romans 13:1-7, Acts 5:29, 1 Corinthians 13:13

Reflection Questions:

- 1) What's one thing that stood out to you in the sermon and why?
- 2) When you were growing up, what was one rule you thought was foolish but later realized made sense?
- 3) Romans 12:1-13:7 describes God's "good, pleasing and perfect will" in relation to the totality of our lives. This graphic illustrates how the gospel should shape every sphere of life.



Sphere	Passage	Gospel Response
God	Romans 12:1-2	Worship God through wholehearted surrender.
Yourself	Romans 12:3-8	Think rightly about yourself and serve using your gifts.
Church	Romans 12:9-16	Love the family of God sincerely.
Enemies	Romans 12:14, 17-21	Overcome evil with good.
Government	Romans 13:1-7	Honor governing authorities as an act of obedience to Christ.

- 4) Read Romans 13:1-7. What are your initial observations and questions?
- 5) In Romans 13:1-2, why does Paul begin this discussion by appealing to God's authority rather than to the governments? What does it mean that governing authorities are "established by God"? Does this mean every government always does what God wants?



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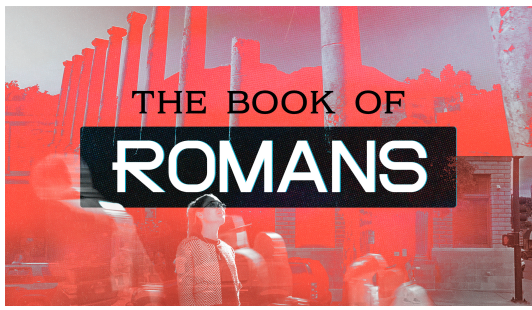
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- 6) According to verses 3-4, what purposes does God intend government to fulfill? For example, protecting what's good, restraining evil and promoting social order. Why is imperfect government still better than anarchy?
- 7) Paul commands believers to submit "as a matter of conscience" (v.5). What's the difference between obeying merely to avoid punishment and obeying out of conscience?
- 8) Verse 7 commands believers to pay taxes and revenue and to show respect and honor. Why do you think Paul includes respect and honor alongside taxes? How do Christians show honor without approving everything a leader says or does?
- 9) Read Acts 5:25-29. How do Romans 13 and Acts 5 fit together? When should Christians respectfully disobey governing authorities?
- 10) In the sermon, it was stated that the gospel frees us from both political idolatry and political hostility. What does political idolatry look like? What does political hostility look like? Why are both dangerous to followers of Jesus?
- 11) Which of these areas challenges you most?
 - Respecting authority
 - Trusting God's sovereignty
 - Speaking respectfully about political leaders
 - Avoiding political fear
 - Praying regularly for leaders
 - Distinguishing loyalty to Christ from loyalty to a political party
- 12) Choose one practical way to live out Romans 13:1-7 this week.



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