

# Submit to God, Not Man



ROMANS

13:1-7



# Questions On The Mind Of The Roman Church

- 1. Do Christians have to submit to the rules of the Government and secular society?**
- 2. If we do have to submit, how do we go about doing it?**
- 3. What if we don't believe that they are doing the right things and coming up with the right policies?**
- 4. What if the Government is corrupt or does things that are completely against the word of God?**
- 5. Specifically in our Singaporean context, what does it mean to submit to our Government and the rule of law?**



# What Is Submission?

**Submission - to allow another person or group to have power or authority over you or to offer up your rights of decision to another.**

**Jesus' entire life on earth embodied and demonstrated to us what true submission is all about.**



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# What Is Submission?

**John 6:38**

**“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”**



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# What Is Submission?

## Philippians 2:3-8

**“<sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!”**





**The Christian is responsive to God, fulfilling  
our highest calling in choosing to obey the  
Lord in the matter of submission**

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# Romans 13:1

**“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”**



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# Reasons For Submission

**1. The authorities are ordained by God.**

**John 19:10-11 - "...“Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.”**

**Daniel 2:21 - "...He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.”**

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# God Is In Control

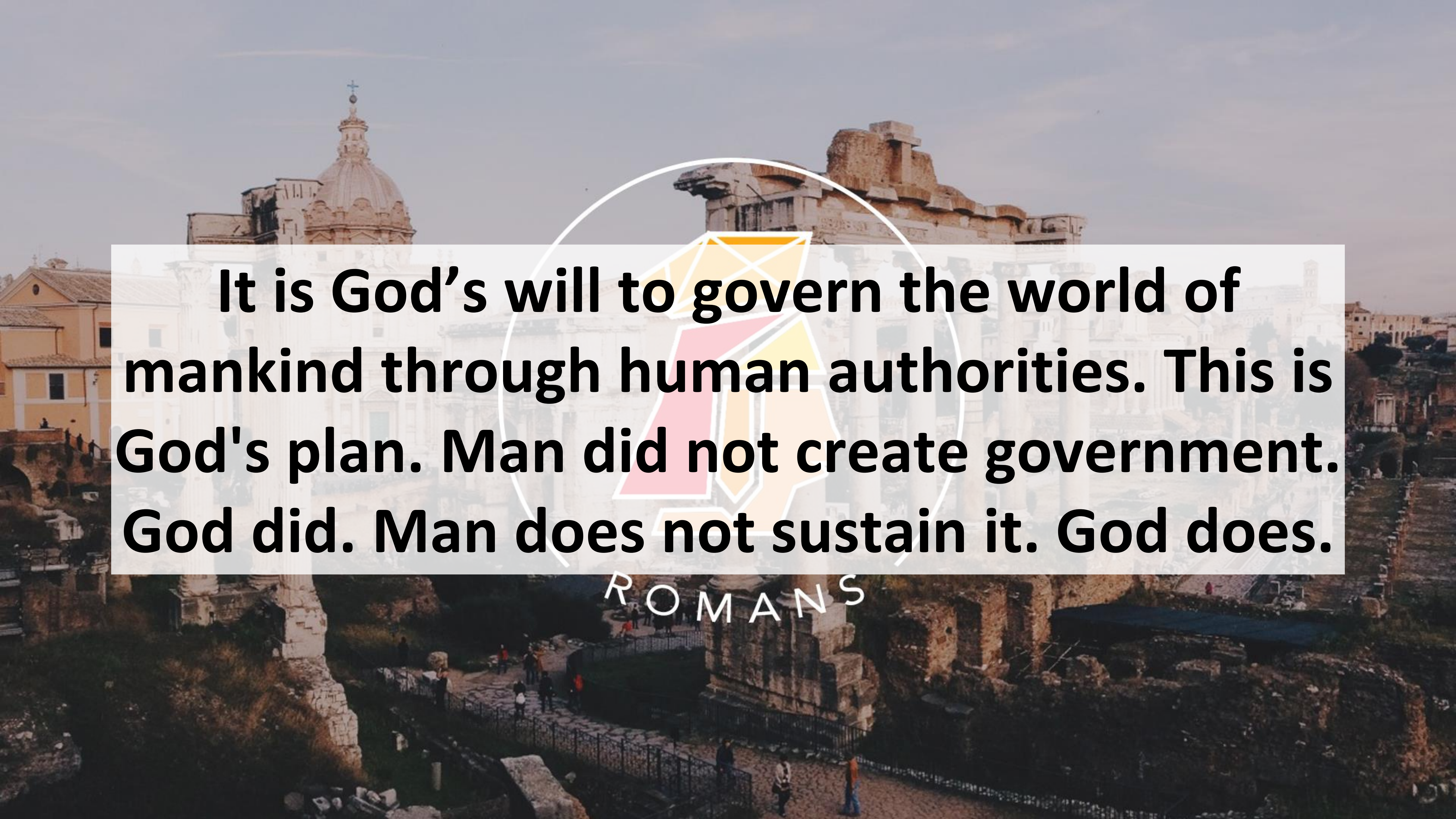
## King Jeroboam

**1 Kings 12:15 - “...for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the Lord that he might fulfill his word, which the Lord spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.”**

## King Nebuchadnezzar

**Jeremiah 27:6 - “Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant, and I have given him also the beasts of the field to serve him.”**



The background is a photograph of ancient Roman ruins in Rome, Italy. In the upper left, the dome of St. Peter's Basilica is visible. In the center, there are large, weathered stone structures, likely the remains of the Temple of Mars Ultor in the Forum of Augustus. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text. Behind the text box, there is a large, stylized geometric logo consisting of overlapping yellow and pink triangles forming a larger triangular shape. A thin white circle is also visible behind the text box.

**It is God's will to govern the world of mankind through human authorities. This is God's plan. Man did not create government. God did. Man does not sustain it. God does.**

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# 1 Peter 2:13-15

**“<sup>13</sup>Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup>or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup>For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.”**

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# Reasons For Submission

**2. Rebelling against the authorities which God has instituted will bring judgement**

**“<sup>2</sup>Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup>For 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 you will be commended. <sup>4</sup>For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” - Romans 13:2-4**



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**3. All the governing civil authorities are here for our good**

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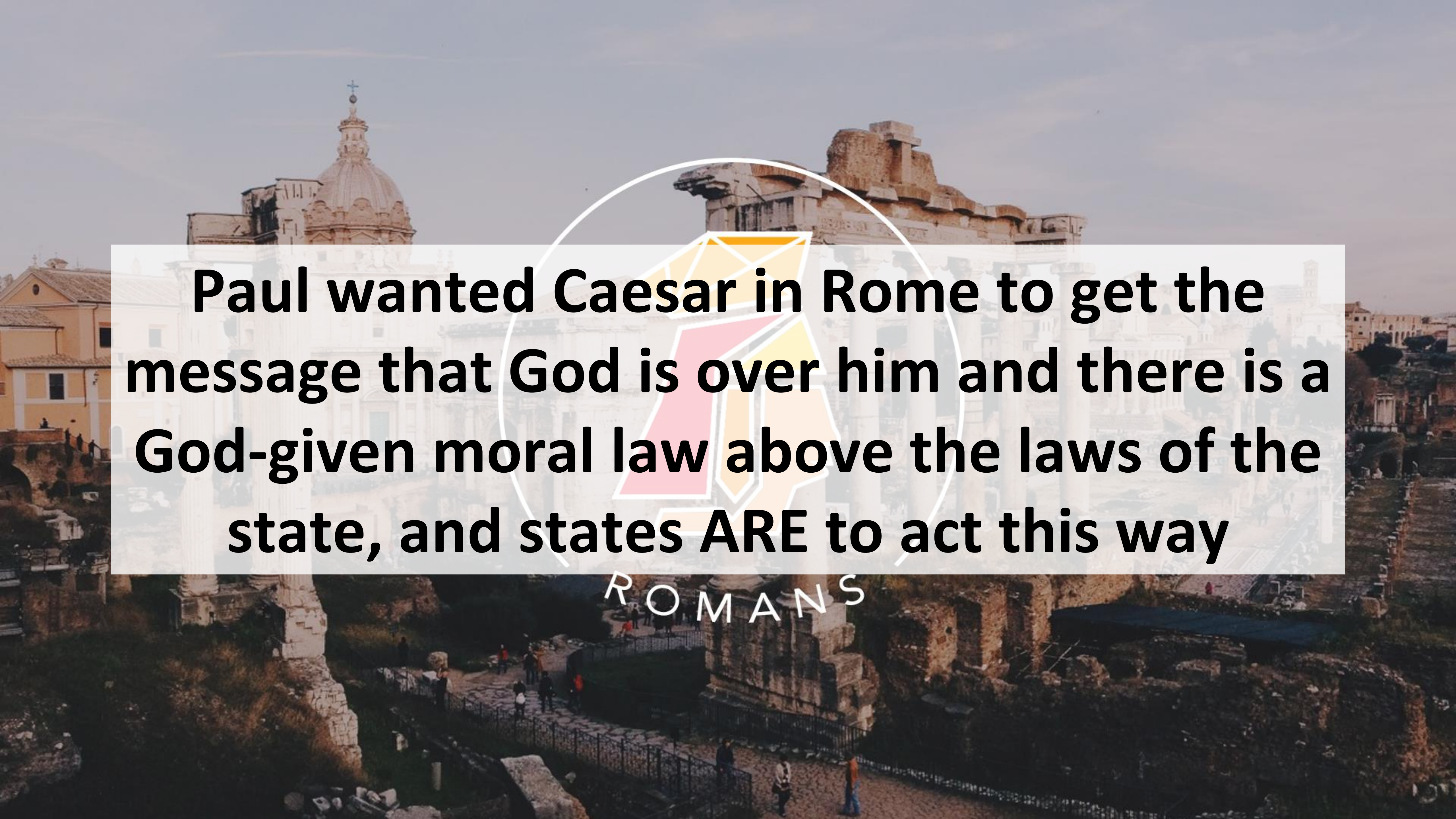


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The background is a photograph of ancient Roman ruins in Rome, Italy. In the upper left, the dome of St. Peter's Basilica is visible. The foreground and middle ground show the extensive ruins of the Roman Forum, including the remains of several temples and the Via Sacra. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing bold black text. Overlaid on this box is a large, stylized geometric logo composed of yellow and pink triangles. The word "ROMANS" is written in white, spaced-out capital letters across the bottom of the white box.

**Paul wanted Caesar in Rome to get the message that God is over him and there is a God-given moral law above the laws of the state, and states ARE to act this way**

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**The danger to our soul from unjust governments is nowhere near as great as the danger to our soul from the pride that stands against submission**

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**Paul is more concerned with our humility,  
self-denial and trust in Christ than he is  
about our civil liberties or rights**

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# 1 Peter 2:17-23

**“<sup>17</sup>Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. <sup>18</sup>Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. <sup>19</sup>For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. <sup>20</sup>But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup>To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” <sup>23</sup>When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”**





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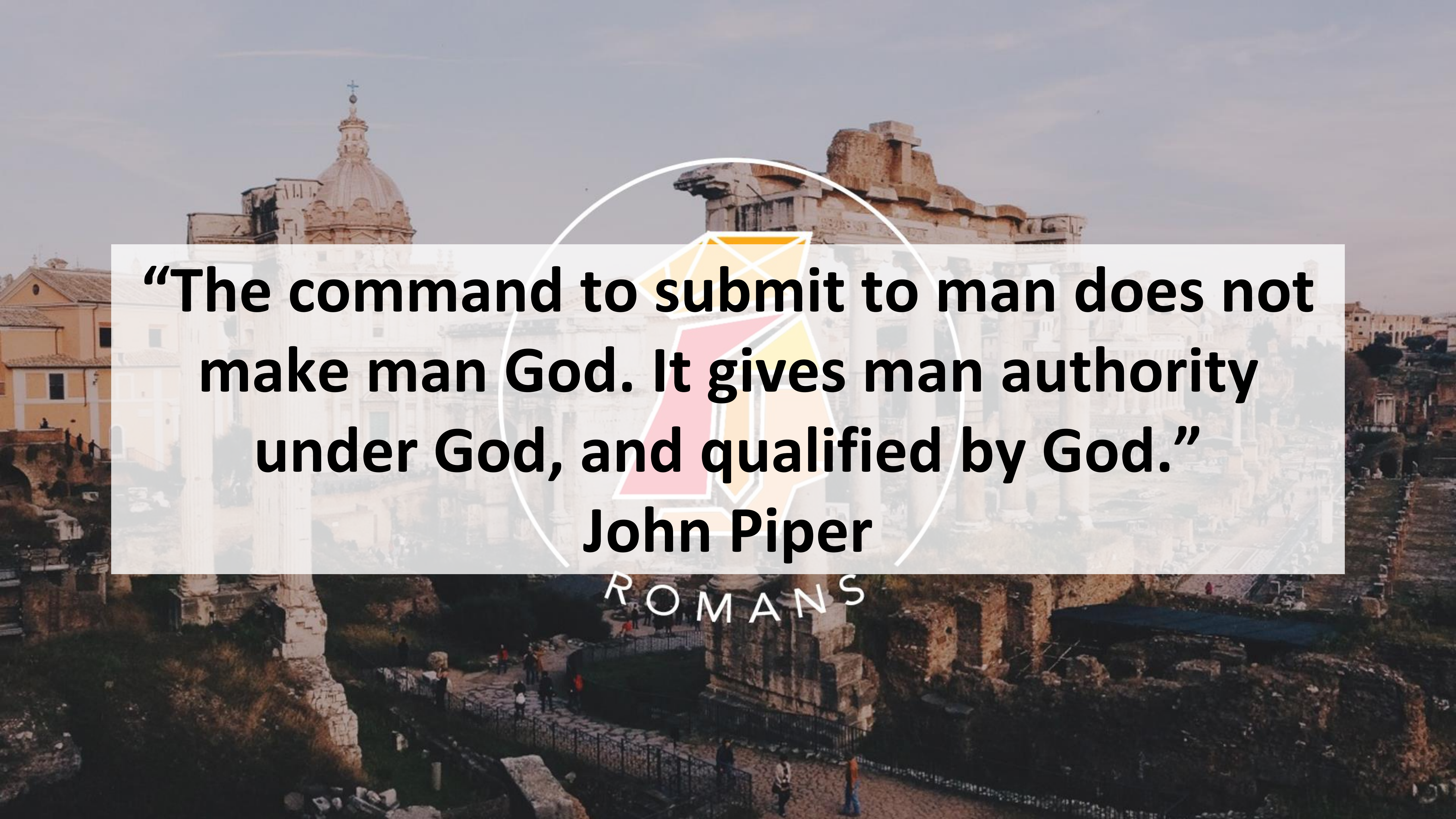


## Acts 5:27-29

**“<sup>27</sup>The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. <sup>28</sup>“We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.” <sup>29</sup>Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!”**

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**“The command to submit to man does not make man God. It gives man authority under God, and qualified by God.”**

**John Piper**

ROMANS



## Daniel 3:28-29

**“<sup>28</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup>Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”**



# 3 Questions To Consider Before Civil Disobedience

1. How atrocious is the action demanded by the law?
2. How far reaching is the impact of this unjust law's effect?
3. What is God saying to you personally about the role you should play to actually make a difference?

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## Matthew 5:43-48

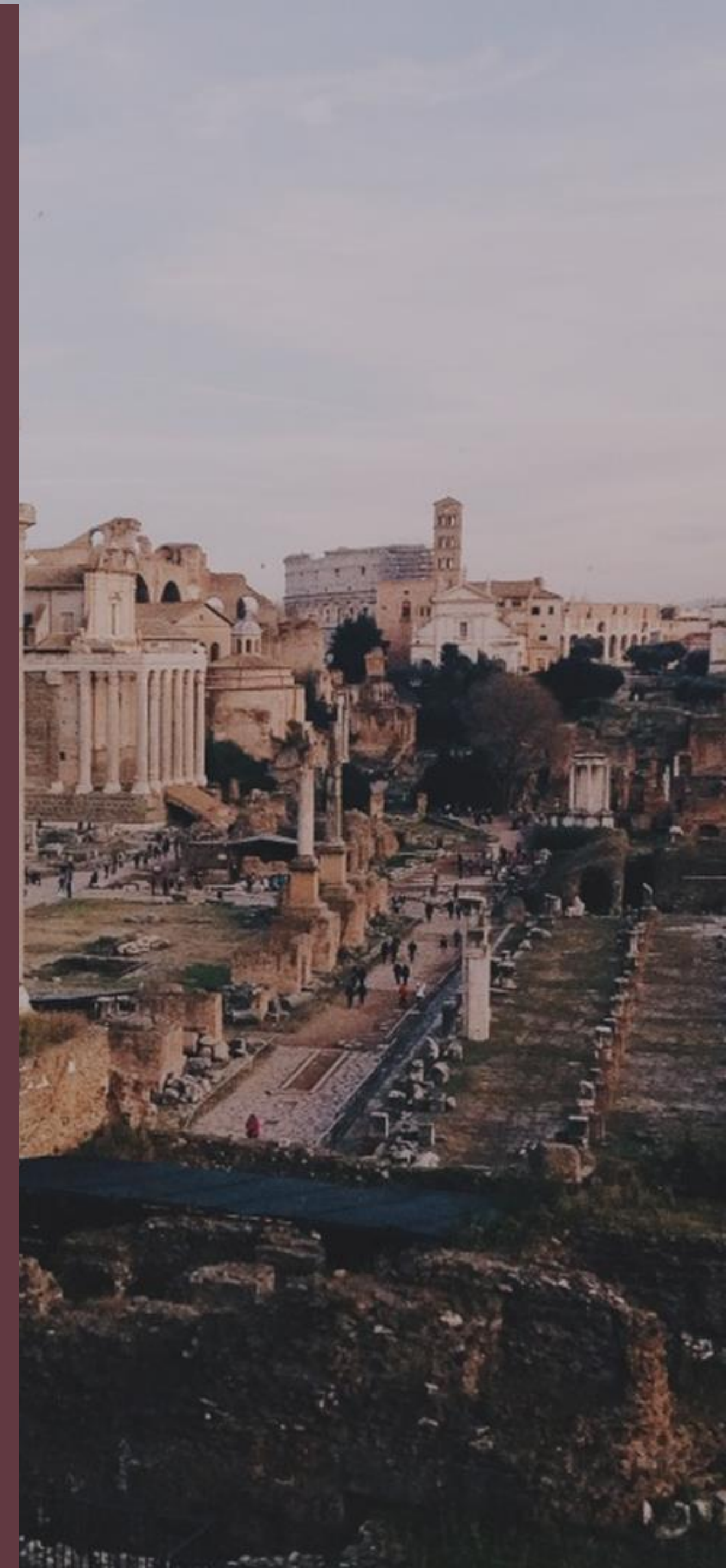
**“<sup>43</sup>‘You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup>But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup>If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.’”**



# Submit To God, Not Man

1. All governing authority is established and ordained by God so everyone should be subject to those authorities
2. These governing civil authorities are here for our good
3. Submit to the authorities as part of God's greater moral law for the world
4. Some rules and governments are good, and some are bad
5. The demands for submission is relative, not absolute. It depends on whether the demands of the governing authorities require us to disobey Jesus. We must and are called to honour God above the state.





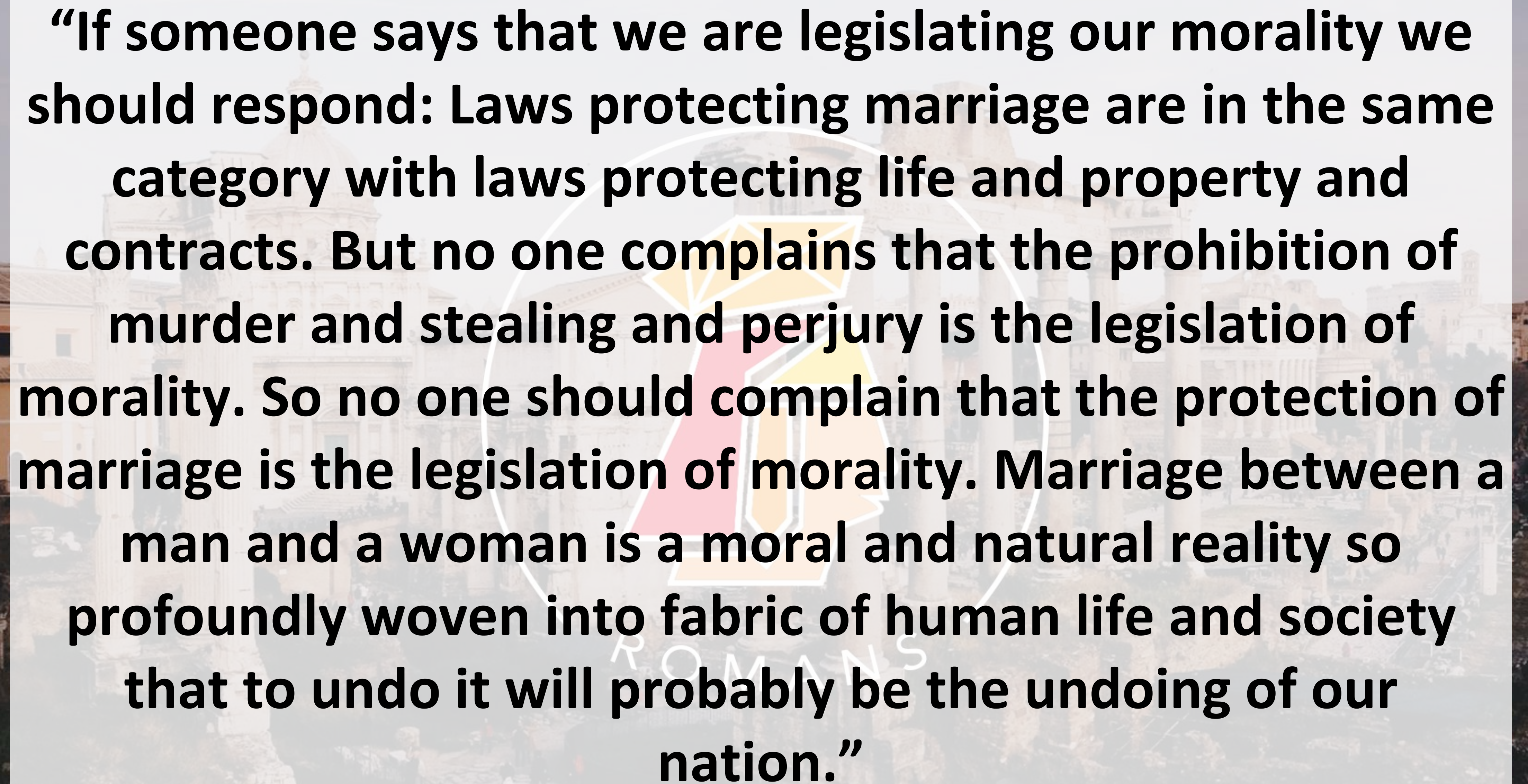


# What Can We Do For Singapore?

## 1) Stand up for God's law







**“If someone says that we are legislating our morality we should respond: Laws protecting marriage are in the same category with laws protecting life and property and contracts. But no one complains that the prohibition of murder and stealing and perjury is the legislation of morality. So no one should complain that the protection of marriage is the legislation of morality. Marriage between a man and a woman is a moral and natural reality so profoundly woven into fabric of human life and society that to undo it will probably be the undoing of our nation.”**

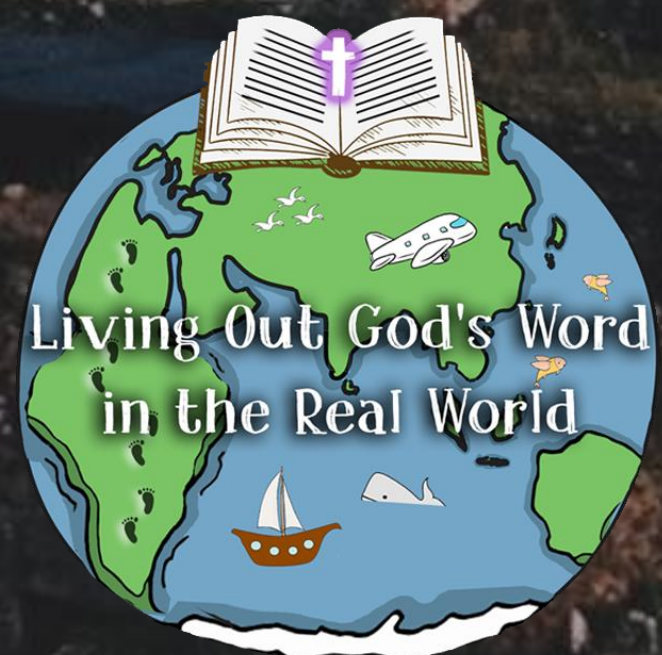
**John Piper**



# What Can We Do For Singapore?

**1) Stand up for God's law**

**2) Love Singapore**





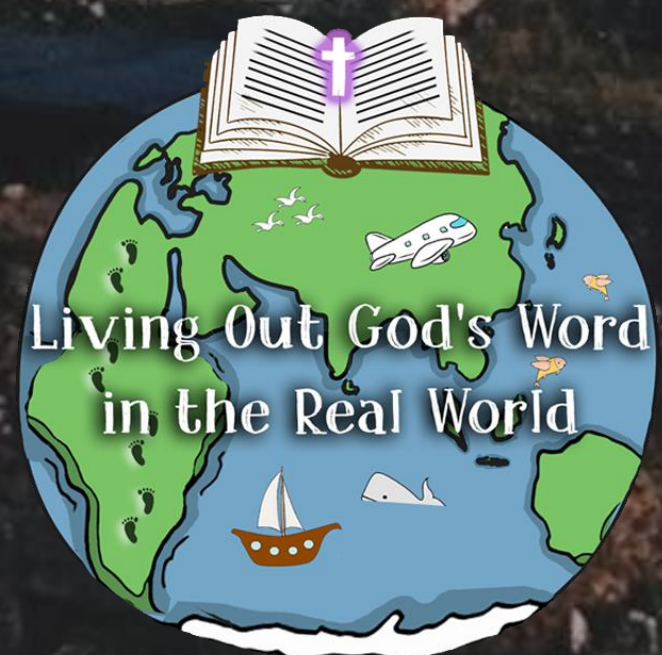
# What Can We Do For Singapore?

**1) Stand up for God's law**

**2) Love Singapore**

**3) Let the Lord lead you to take individual action**

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**“We need to be flexible for God to use us. If your heart is to do the will of God, your career change doesn’t matter. It is what you do in positions God puts you in that counts”**

**“I had no political ambitions so it came as a surprise. But God provided me with a husband who prayed with me about it and supported me even though I felt ill-equipped to speak at rallies during the campaigning period”**



“The furore over Hannah’s book is also a timely reminder that faith that inspires integrity in public service, that leads men and women to serve their fellow citizens with honour, respect and dignity, is more needed than ever before. God help that nation that has a deficit of such men and women of faith in public office. By her actions, Hannah has come to exemplify the Christian perspective that faith in Jesus Christ compels them to work with their fellow citizens to build a nation defined by love, compassion, justice and righteousness. It lays upon them, as well, a burden to reach out to the poor, the hurting, the marginalised people all around us and, when asked, to give the reason for the hope they carry in their hearts.”





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