# "HEAVEN'S CITIZENS SUBJECT TO CIVIL AUTHORITY"

## ROMANS 13:1-5

1. **THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MANDATE TO SUBMISSION TO HIGHER POWERS (13:1)**
   1. It Does Not Advocate An Absolute, Blind Obedience Irrespective Of Circumstance.
      1. The Term Instructs Us Literally To "Arrange Under" The Respective Authority.
      2. The Term Instructs Us Through A Survey Of Its New Testament Usage.
   2. It Does Insist That All People, Both Christian And Pagan Are To Be Submissive To The Existing Civil Authorities.
      1. We Must Realize What The Passage Does Not Tell Us.
      2. We Must Realize How The Lord Historically Established The Validity Of Human Government.
2. **THE MANDATE COMES WITH TWO EXPLICIT REASONS FOR COMPLIANCE (13:5)**
   1. Because Of Conscience
      1. God Is The Author Of All Authority
      2. God Is Sovereign Over The Authorities He Has Established
      3. God Is The Self Existing Limitation On Human Government
         1. The Great Commission Takes Precedent Over Civil Law
         2. The Moral Law Of God Takes Precedent Over Civil Law
   2. Because Of Wrath
      1. Have You Considered The Seriousness Of Resisting Authority? (13:2)
      2. Have You Considered The General Posture Of Human Government? (13:3)
      3. Have You Considered The Nature Of God's Wrath In Governmental Punishment? (13:4)
      4. Have You Considered The Credentials The Government Has For Functioning In This Realm Of Wrath? (13:4)