

“Loving Under Authority” By Kirk Hunt

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Romans 13:1–2 NKJV

Please also read Romans 13:1–14

The Apostle Paul commanded Christians living in Rome to obey the rule and authority of the Roman Caesars. These same Roman leaders would eventually behead the Apostle. Paul’s words, and example, remain a commandment for Christians today. Our dual citizenship in God’s Kingdom, and a secular government, leads to complexities we answer through His love and grace.

Christians are good citizens of God and heaven, first and foremost. When push comes to shove, His grace and love should flow out of us to the men and women who persecute us. Especially when they respond with [dogs and firehoses](#).

Paul was beheaded for preaching the Gospel. Traditionally, all of the Apostles, save John, were martyred for preaching Jesus. The Apostles loved Jesus, and their pagan persecutors, more than themselves. Instead of a clenched fist they used their loving hearts to turn the authorities to Jesus.

Through prayer and living as authentic Christians, the Apostles turned pagan Rome into a Christian nation. No nation, or group, is so far gone that it cannot be brought, or returned, to Christ. Are you willing to live, love and potentially die as a citizen of heaven?

Think: I am first and foremost a loving citizen of heaven. Regardless of the cost.

Pray: “Lord, help me to live out my life as a testimony of Your love.”

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