

# ROMANS 53 – 13:1-5

## *Resisting God's Ministers*

### 1. 13:1-2

- a. Paul preaches here against being libertine, scofflaws, evil doers, and riotous
- b. God ordained higher powers, their authority does not come from their strength
- c. Why be subject? 1) God's wrath, 2) conscience of good and evil -Rom 2:15, 13:5
- d. *"resists the ordinance of God"* – God ordains power, not people or their actions
- e. *"receive ... damnation"* – Not salvation, but punishment: either from them or God
- f. There is terror in the Lord's judgment - 2 Cor 5:10-11, Nah 1:2-3, Rom 1:18
- g. We are all accountable to God who judges all– Rom 2:16, 14:12; 1 Cor 4:5, 1Ti 5:24

### 2. 13:3-5

- a. *"rulers are not a terror"* – This is the function of God ordained power and laws
- b. God ordained punishment by men - Gen 9:6, Deu 25:1, Lev 20:10, 24:17
- c. Our works matter, the law is holy and good – Rom 7:12, Titus 1:6, 2:8-3:3
- d. *"afraid of the power?"* Jesus: 'fear him who destroys body **and** soul' – Matt 10:28
- e. Rulers are God's ministers if they minister good, peace, justice, righteousness
- f. If the judgment is righteous, so is the punishment, do not retaliate – Rom 12:17
- g. *"do good... have praise"* – because it is right - Prov 15:1, 1 Tim 6:1-6; Titus 2:8-3:3
- h. Paul (and Peter) are quoting old wisdom - Ecc 8:2-5, 10:4-6, and Prov 14:35
- i. Peter's kingdom had not come yet, he taught to submit – 1 Pet 2:11-19, 3:13-14
- j. Others despised government because of their sin, that is wrong – 2 Pet 2:9-16
- k. Some wanted to replace the government with religious rule, both were wrong.

### 3. When Rulers Go Bad

- a. Rulers are not ministers of God when they are a terror to good and not evil
- b. Countries are often ruled by unsaved sinners ignorant of the truth – 1 Cor 2:14
- c. Jesus said for the disciples to follow rulers, but not in their hypocrisy – Mat 23:2
- d. People who follow wickedness lack discernment – 2 Sam 15:11, Rom 16:18
- e. We are ambassadors, not conquistadors setting up a politico-religious kingdom
- f. We are told to stand against some things, but not with swords – Eph 6:11-13
- g. *"He that justifieth the wicked is an abomination"* – Prov 17:15, Psa 94:20-21
  - i. But it is not our place to give wrath! – Rom 12:19
- h. Our weapons are not carnal, but spiritual and doctrinal – Eph 6:14, 2 Cor 10:3-6
  - i. There is no such thing as 'too big to fail' – Prov 24:23-25, Prov 11:1
- i. Paul uses his blameless lifestyle as a defense before Felix – Acts 24:16
- j. Our actions are to be blameless, walking honestly, not rioting, and striving
- k. Our position is subject to rulers as God's ministers for good
- l. Our preaching is clear and proactive as ambassadors of God's truth against evil

# Resistance to Powers in the Bible

We should never resist God's ordinances, good works, righteous judgment, or God's ministers, but be subject to the higher powers for God's sake. Godly ministers should resist ordinances of man that follow after wrong doctrine (Col 2:20), doers of evil works (Rom 12:9), unjust laws (1 Tim 1:8-10, Prov 17:15), and spiritual wickedness (Eph 6:12-13).

The church is not Israel, so, our weapons of resistance are not carnal. Our weapons of resistance are not physical swords, but spiritual and doctrinal (2 Cor 10:3-6; Eph 6:13-18).

Below are examples of saints in the Bible that resisted rulers who were not God's ministers.

1. Hebrew midwives feared God and disobeyed the King of Egypt – Exodus 1:17
2. Moses' parents broke the law and hid Moses alive 3 months – Exo 1:22-2:3
3. Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter – Heb 11:24-26
4. Moses defied Pharaoh and forsook Egypt, fearing not the King – Heb 11:27
5. Rahab resisted her own authorities to hide the Jewish spies – Heb 11:31
6. Jael nailed a ruler to the ground with a tent peg – Judges 4:21-22
7. Samson resisted lords among the Philistines – Judges 16:30
8. David intentionally escaped and hid from the pursuit of King Saul – 1 Samuel 27:1
9. Mordecai did not bow down to worship Haman – Esther 3:2
10. Elijah disobeyed the orders of the wicked King Ahab – 2 Kings 1:10
11. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego resisted Nebuchadnezzar – Dan 3:12-19
12. Daniel ignored the unjust law of the righteous king Darius – Dan 6:5, 6:10
13. Amos and the prophets spoke against unrighteousness in Israel's kings and priests
14. John the Baptist was arrested for identifying adultery in the rulers house – Matt 14:4
15. Jesus rebuked the rulers in Israel – Luke 13:32, Matthew 23
16. Jesus broke commandments of men that were not God's – Matthew 7:7-9
17. Jesus avoided the rulers who were trying to arrest him – John 7:1
18. The angel of God resisted the unrighteous rulers by freeing Peter – Acts 5:19
19. Peter ignored the command of the rulers in Jerusalem – Acts 5:28-29
20. Paul took the high priest of Israel to court to prove his innocence – Acts 25:16
21. Paul fled from rulers he had offended and were trying to capture him – Acts 14:4-5
22. Paul was arrested and thrown in jail for doing ministry – Acts 16:19-24
23. Paul resisted the order of the magistrates – Acts 16:37

## Paul Submitting to Unsaved Rulers

1. When taken before judgment, Paul makes a defense to the court - Acts 18:12-14
2. Paul did not wish to speak evil of the high priest of Israel – Acts 23:5
3. Paul submits himself to the righteous judgment of the court – Acts 25:11
4. Paul followed the laws of Jerusalem when he was there – Acts 25:8