

We the People of the United States, in order to secure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

# ROMANS 13

And the American Christian

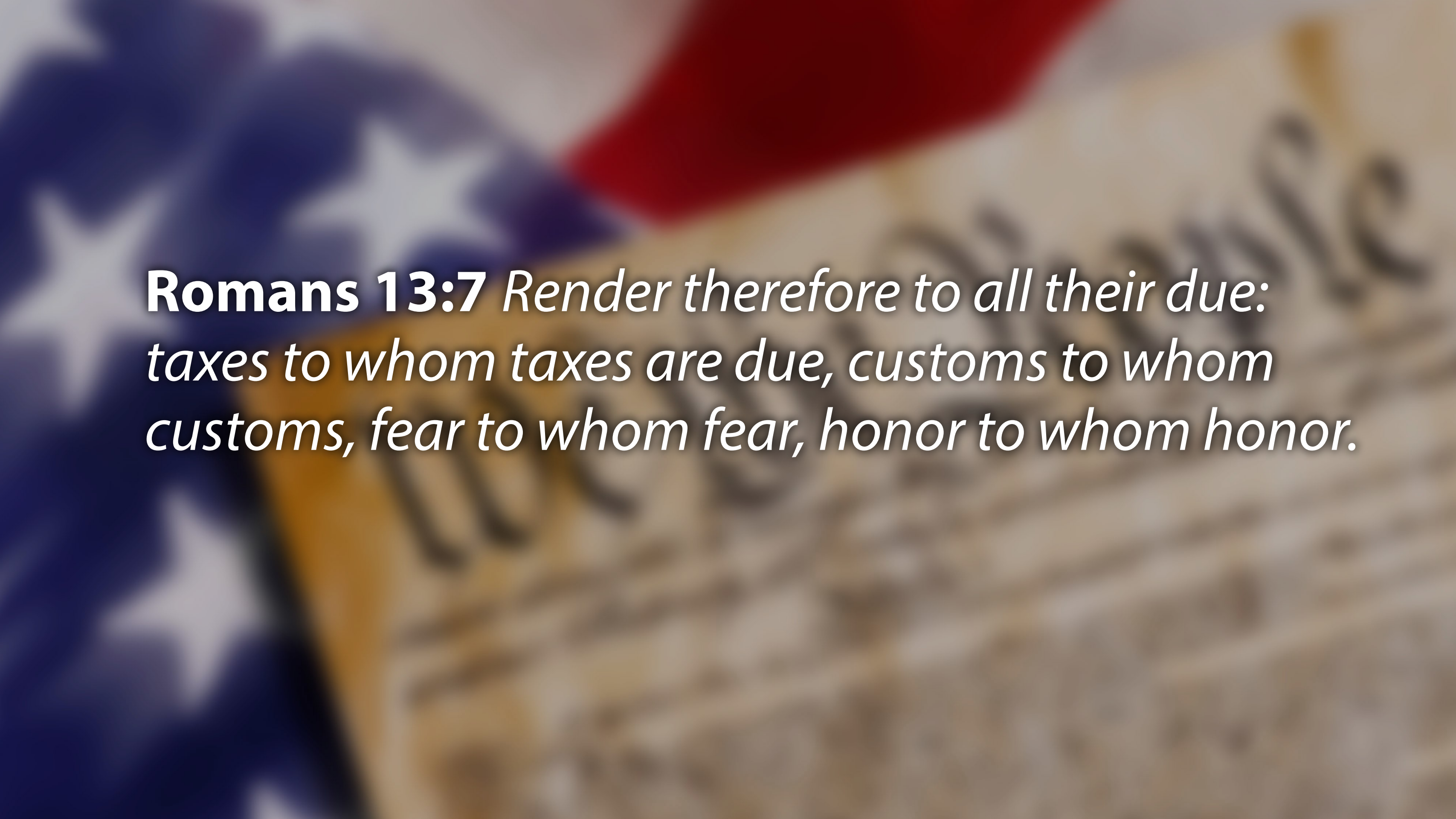


**Romans 13:1**, *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.*



**Romans 13:4** *For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.*



The background of the image is a blurred American flag, showing the stars and stripes in soft focus. The text is overlaid on this background.

**Romans 13:7** *Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.*



What are governing authorities? Who is God's minister?

**It is important to understand context.**

Paul is speaking in the context of his day. His world didn't have anything like the United States, the Bill of Rights, or the Constitution, the Preamble of which begins with the words "***We the People.***"

Paul knew the Roman Empire was evil, but he understood the importance of civil government.

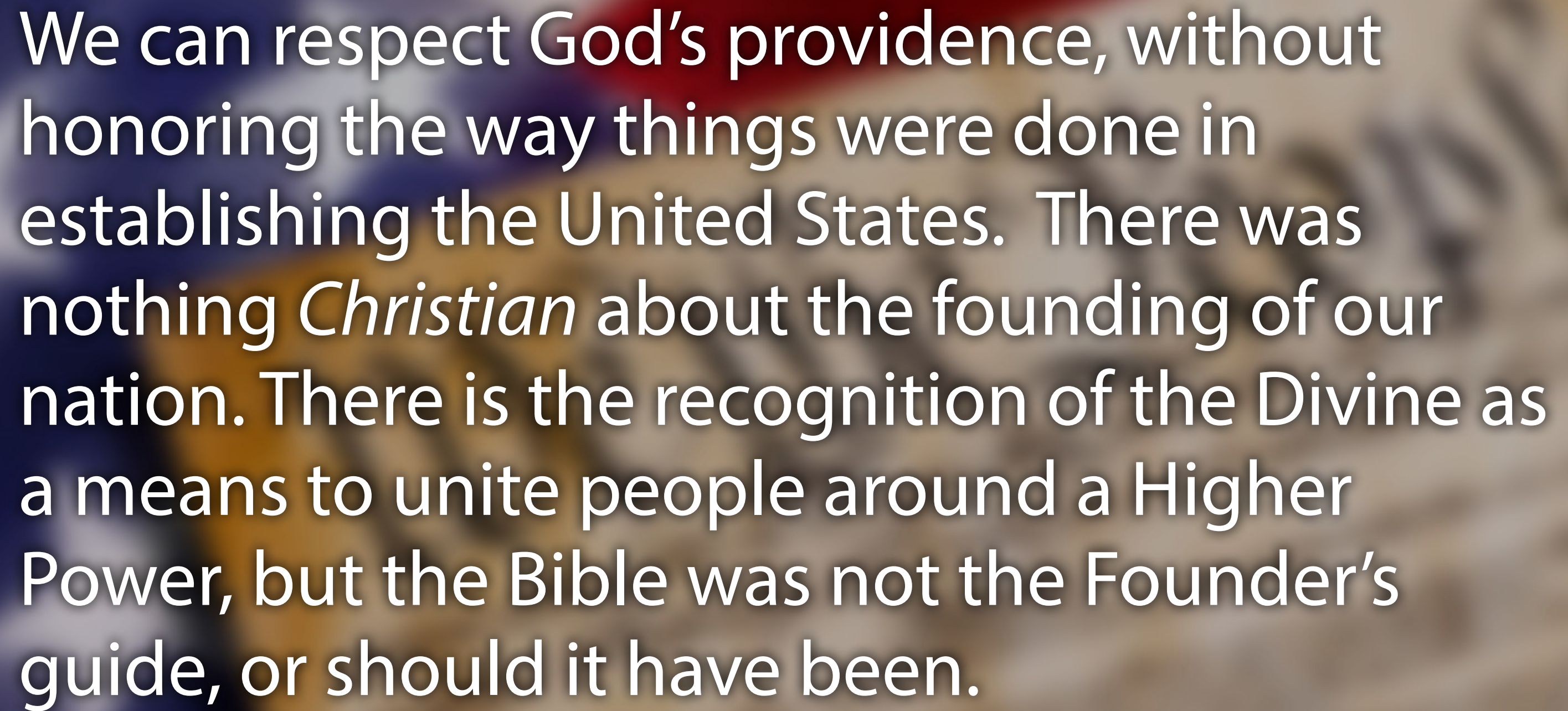


## PREAMBLE

*“We **the People** of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, **promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity**, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America”*

[\(Read full text of the US Constitution\)](#)



The background of the image is a blurred American flag, showing the stars and stripes in soft focus. The text is overlaid on this background.

We can respect God's providence, without honoring the way things were done in establishing the United States. There was nothing *Christian* about the founding of our nation. There is the recognition of the Divine as a means to unite people around a Higher Power, but the Bible was not the Founder's guide, or should it have been.



Look at what the **Declaration of Independence** said about Native Americans:

*"...the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions..."*

These are the same **savages** that help Pilgrim settlers to survive one hundred years earlier in the 1620's. They were not prepared for the winters.

[\(Read full text the the Declaration of Independence\)](#)



## FINAL STATEMENT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

*“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”*

[\(Read full text the the Declaration of Independence\)](#)



## Roman Empire In Context:

*In Rome, government wasn't just absolute, it was literally divine. "Roma" was a goddess; all public offices were also religious offices; and executions for high crimes were sacrifices to the gods. So Romans 13 puts government back in its place:*

<https://theweek.com/articles/779283/what-bible-really-says-about-government>



Jeff Sessions quoted the Bible to defend his policies in separating migrant children from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border.

*"I would cite you to the Apostle Paul and his clear and wise command in Romans 13, to obey the laws of the government because God has ordained them for the purpose of order,"* Sessions said, when defending President Trump's "zero tolerance" immigration policy."

(<https://theweek.com/articles/779283/what-bible-really-says-about-government>)

There was no law about separating children from parents.



The background of the image is a blurred American flag, showing the stars and stripes in soft focus. The colors are muted, with the blue field containing white stars and the red and white stripes appearing as soft bands of color.

In our world justice is not vested in one man. Nor is justice vested constables such as police officers. They only enforce law and bring suspects to justice.

In our judicial system, magistrates, courts, constitutions, laws, statutes, and due process are our “authorities” “ministers” and “avengers.”



**Romans 13:1**, *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*

**3** *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good*

What are the “authorities that exist?”

How can evil rulers be a terror to evil?

Legitimate authorities do what is good, not what is self-serving.



Acts 5:26 *Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, [they intended to do violence to them] for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, 28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" 29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."*

**The religious council was not "the authority."**