



# THE DAILY

BIBLE STUDY FROM NEWPOINTE

## TUESDAY, JULY 17 – NOT MY PRESIDENT

**BOTTOM LINE:** You are exalted by God as you . . . “Humble yourself under God’s authority.”

*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. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. Romans 13:1-2*

Politically we have always been a diverse nation. The last years have brought more dissension and active rebellion against elected authorities than in many years, however. The line “not my president” has been heard many times. Is that a stance a follower of Jesus Christ should assume?

Romans says not. Paul is writing to people whose leaders made ours look like novices in control, abuse, and manipulation. Yet he assures them, “These leaders you have did not get into control while God was sleeping. Anyone who has authority over you was allowed by God to be established (not necessarily chosen by God), and to rebel actually involves your relationship with God.” He says rebellion invites judgment on ourselves.

There is a difference between rebelling and disagreeing. There is a difference between disagreeing while we work for justice, and flaunting disobedience. There is a significant difference between approving of a person and their character, and simply respecting the position and authority God has allowed them to have.

None of this is easy—and it’s not just on a presidential scale. It applies within homes, businesses, and churches. I have a responsibility before God to be respectful; to operate with humility and grace. The way I want the people over whom I have authority to respect, differ with, and honor me, is what I am to give those over me. Regardless.

- Where do you have the most difficulty showing respect and honor to authority?
- Where do you resent people who do not respect your authority?
- Talk to God about both situations. Ask God to help you exhibit your faith in Him by trusting Him to run the world aright.