*Acts Sermon 84*

**Where is the Line?**

*Romans 13:1-7*

*A Biblical view of Civil Authority:*

I. **The where: Where the authority comes from**. **(Vs. 1)**

II. **The why: Why the authority exists. (Vs. 2-5)**

III. **The what: What the limits of the authority are. (Vs. 6-7)**

* **Points to Ponder**
1. Consider how Paul says that God is the source of all governing authorities. What about a truly evil ruler or governing agency, do you still have to submit to them? Is every government on the planet really an agent of God? How does this shape your attitude towards the government God has placed over you?
2. Consider how Paul says that failure to submit to the governing authorities is failure to submit to God. Does this mean that you as a believer must still submit to a government which hates God? Is there any authority which is worthy of your submission?
3. Consider how Paul only communicates one example of how believers are to submit to government through paying taxes indicating that he is only giving a general principle of how this is played out. Does this mean that in all circumstances and all situations believers are to obey everything the civil authorities say to do? How are you, as a believer, to think through the idea of when it is okay to cross over the line of obeying what the government is commanding you to do?