

# God and Government

*Romans 13:1-7*

1. *Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*
2. *Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.*
3. *For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.*
4. *For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.*
5. *Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.*
6. *This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.*
7. *Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.*

Paul is continuing his “machine gun” exhortations to true born-again believers who have invited Jesus Christ personally into their lives. He is instructing them in how to respond to this wonderful Gospel of the grace of God. It is both spiritual, moral, and ethical in its nature.

## **Title Chapters 12-16: Principles to Live By**

*How to Live As the Redeemed of the Lord*

### Surrendered Life

10. Principle of Service - Romans 12 (surrender, gifts, disciplines, love God, love)
11. Principle of Submission - Romans 13 (obedience)
12. Principle of Strength - Romans 14-16

Closing Greetings – *Significant Others*

# Introduction

## The Problem of Governments - Not all are good.

### Israel and God's Government - 1 Samuel 8

6. But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. 7. And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. 8. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. 9. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do." 10. Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. 11. He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. 12. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. 13. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. 14. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. 15. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. 16. Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. 17. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. 18. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day." 19. But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. 20. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles." 21. When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the LORD. 22. The LORD answered, "Listen to them and give them a king."

### Roman Government

Paul is writing under the government of Caesar Nero.

?? Roman Government - Nero, Paul, Peter execution, "Caesar is Lord (kurios)"

?? Huguenots - Reformation & Inquisition - founding fathers, Huss, Calvin, Luther

?? American Revolution - George Washington described government thusly:

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master!" (ie) Torries, Loyalist of American Revolution, Henri Bolyee.

?? Civil War - a Christian in the South

?? Nazi Government - Hitler, Pastor Martin Niemoeller, Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

?? Communist Government - Alexander Solenizen, Luthern Church

Augustine (354-430): **The City of God: excerpts on the Two Cities**

*There are two cities, the city of the godly and the city of the ungodly. These have been with us since the human race began, and they will continue till the end of the world. For the time being, as far as outward appearances go, they are indistinguishable, but their aspirations are very different. On the Day of Judgment they will be separated bodily for all to see.*

# I. God's Commands Concerning Citizenship Concerning Your Earthly Citizenship

## 1. Submit to Governments as Ordained of God

**Daniel 4:17** "The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.' **25** You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes. **32** You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

## 2. Pay Your Taxes & Laws to be Obeyed

*"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."*

**Matthew 17:24** (Drachma - a Greek [not Roman] silver coin)

24. After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?"  
25. "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes--from their own sons or from others?"  
26. "From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him.  
27. "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

**Matthew 22:17 (Before Herod and Pilate, Luke 23:2, John 19:11)**

17. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"  
18. But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?"  
19. Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius,  
20. and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"  
21. "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

**Romans 13:**

6. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.  
7. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

### **3. Honor & Respect the King - Submit**

#### **I Peter 2:13-14**

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, 14. or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. 16. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. 17. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Honor the President

Pledge the Flag

Serve in Military

### **Things Not Defined Here**

1. What to do when Government departs from the role God gave it.
2. What to do when and if Government commits moral wrongs.
3. What to do if commands of Government contradict commands of God.
4. What to do if you are called to go to war.

Tonight's Message is Part II

## II. God's Demands Concerning Conscience Concerning Your Heavenly Citizenship

*"Disobeying the Law for Conscience Sake"*

*"Civil Disobedience God Honors"*

### 1. Pray For the King

#### I Timothy 2:1-4

1. I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- 2. for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4. who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

### 2. God's Kingdom Is Not On Earth

**John 18:36** Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

(ie) Augustine: Two Cities – Post Millennialism

(ie) American Revolution - Huguenots, Tories, loyalty before God

### 3. Obey God Rather Than Man

#### God's Commands Override the Commands of Men

**Acts 4:16-19** But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.

**Acts 5:18,29** They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. 28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." 29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!

#### Romans 13:5-7

5. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. 6. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

**Acts 4** Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God

**Acts 5** "We must obey God rather than men!

(ie) The line in the sand - keeps moving, keeps retreating.

X-----X

## Examples of Civil Disobedience

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

*Some things are worth dying for.*

When Government becomes God.

When Government contradicts God.

### First They Came For The Jews

First they came for the Jews

And I did not speak out –

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the communists

And I did not speak out –

Because I was not a communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists

And I did not speak out –

Because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for me –

And there was no-one left

To speak out for me.

Pastor Niemöller, 1938

## 7 Conscience Searing Policies of American Government

1 Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, **whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.**

1. Removal of the Bible, 10 Commandments (Distribution & Read Scripture)
2. Removal of Prayer, God, Christ (Praying in Public)
3. Evolutionary Teaching Mandated (Contradict Sinners, Untruth)
4. Abortion on Demand (Legalized murder)
5. Gay rights, marriage, pluralism, relativism (Legalized immorality)
6. Euthanasia - mercy killing, death, death by choice (Legalized Suicide)
7. Cloning - Stem Cell Research (Being gods)

*Where is your line drawn in the sand?*

## 4 Conscientious Responses to Government

Romans 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

1 Timothy 1:19 Holding faith, and a good conscience;

1 Timothy 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

1 Timothy 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

1 Peter 2:19 For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

1 Peter 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

1. Moral Outrage - speak out, cry out (John the Baptist with Herod)
2. Political Activism - vote him out of office.
3. Civil Disobedience - take a stand, line in the sand
4. Separation - home schooling, isolation, Amish

5. Revolt & Revolution? - Constitution: American Revolution, Bonhoffer, The words used in the Virginia Act of Ratification of the United States Constitution state these points well: "*We, the delegates of the People of Virginia, duly elected....in behalf of the people of Virginia, declare and make known, that the powers granted under the Constitution , being derived from the people of the United States, may be resumed by them, whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression; and that every power not granted thereby with them and at their will: that, therefore, no right , of any denomination, can be canceled, abridged, restrained, or modified.*"

# CONCLUSION:

## What Will (Can) The Righteous Do?

Psalms 11:3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

1. **Put God & Christ First** in your life and living. Matt 6:33 Seek ye first
2. **Read, Keep Informed** 1 Timothy 4:13 give attendance to reading, exhortation, doctrine.
3. **Speak Out in Public** - use every opportunity, every conversation
4. **Do What You Can** - support Dobson, Kennedy, write letters, etc. run for school board.