

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE – RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD
GOVERNMENT – PART 2

--ROMANS 13:1-5--

INTRODUCTION:

Last Sunday we began looking at the two principles that Paul teaches in the first seven verses of Romans 13. These principles deal with the Christian's responsibility toward government. The first is to be in subjection to the governing authorities and the second is to pay taxes.

We began looking at the first principle last week that Paul puts forth as a command from God. Then after commanding us to be in subjection to the governing authorities he gives us 7 reasons why we are to be in subjection. We looked at the first and primary one last week, that God has created, established, and ordained human government and placed in positions of power and authority those whom He sovereignly chooses. This morning we will look at the other six reasons God gives through Paul.

II. GOD'S REASON FOR OUR SUBMISSION (Romans 13:1b-5)

***I Ib. Rebellion to Human Government is Rebellion to God
(Romans 13:2a)***

- a. Paul gives us the second reason for _____ to the governing authorities and it is tied closely to the first one.
- b. Now this past year and right into this new year the governing authorities have placed many _____ on us that we do not like and that may seem senseless to us. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

I Ic. Rebellion will be Punished (Romans 13:2b)

- a. Paul goes onto to speak of the _____ of those who resist authority and oppose the ordinance of God.
- b. He writes, "Therefore whoever resists authority has _____ the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves." (Romans 13:2, NASB95)
(Hebrews 12:7-11)

- c. This is not the only discipline that Paul speaks of in Romans 13:2, he also speaks of the consequences of _____ the government.

I Id. Government is to be a Restrainer of Evil (Romans 13:3a)

- a. When God instituted human government one of the purposes of it was to _____ evil.
- b. Paul writes in the first part of verse 3, "For rulers are not a cause of fear for _____ behavior, but for evil." (Romans 13:3a, NASB95)
- c. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of _____ and _____, they entered into that knowledge. (Romans 2:14-15; Romans 1:18-19)
- d. God has made known to man through conscience and reason and by the common grace that He bestows on all mankind the _____ between right and wrong.
- e. Even though human government was instituted by God and established by Him to be a deterrent to evil. (Romans 1:18-32)

I Ie. Government is to be a Promoter of Good (Romans 13:3b-4a)

- a. Not only did God intend for governing authorities to be a deterrent of evil, but also to be a promoter of _____.
- b. Paul writes, "Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is _____ and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good." (Romans 13:3b-4a, NASB95)
- c. It is not wrong for us as citizens or as Christians to look to the to the governing authorities for _____ of our life or our property.
- d. Paul refers to the governing authority as a _____ of God, because in his role he represents the God ordained and established government that God has placed him in.

I If. Governing Authorities are God's Ministers to Punish Evil Doers (Romans 13:4b)

- a. If governing authorities are to promote peace and safety among her citizens, then they must be ready and willing to punish ____.

- b. Paul writes that they do not bear the _____ for nothing. (Genesis 9:6; Matthew 26:52; Acts 25:11)
- c. Since capital punishment is what is ordained by God for the most serious crimes, those which take the life of another human being, when a society rejects capital punishment, they come under God's _____ for not carrying out their God-ordained duty. (Genesis 9:6; Numbers 35:33)
- d. The most heinous of all crimes is abortion, this is simply _____ of unborn children.

Ilg. Be in Subjection for Conscience Sake (Romans 13:5)

- a. Paul writes, “*Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience’ _____.*” (Romans 13:5, NASB95) (1 Peter 2:13-15)
- b. As Spirit-controlled Christians we can only have a clear conscience when it is solidly and firmly in line with God’s _____.

CONCLUSION:

Paul gave us this principle as a command. We are commanded to be in subjection to the governing authorities. Paul then gives us seven reasons to be in subjection, first, because government is created, ordained, and established by God. Second, is that if we resist or rebel against human authority we are rebelling against God. Third, rebellion against God will be punished, and civil government can and should punish rebellion and wrongdoing. Fourth, we should submit because government should be a restrainer of evil and fifth, government should be a promoter of good. Sixth, as created and established by God government has the duty to punish evil doers. Seventh, we submit and obey the governing authorities for conscience’ sake, that is a conscience that is in line with God’s Word. We have a responsibility to government if we are to be the children of God that the Lord wants us to be, to be in subjection to the governing authorities. Do you trust God enough to live according to His Word? Do you believe that God will give you the grace and strength to obey no matter the cost? These are questions that must be answered as we navigate this difficult time in our world.