

The Umbrella of Government Authority

Romans 13:1 *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

Introduction: Due to the sinful and rebellious nature of men, God established laws and set up Human Government. God gave men the authority to enforce His laws. He did this for our protection and for our good. Civil authorities are God's provision for the restraint of evil in order that we might live "a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1 Tim. 2:2)

School teachers, police officers, local officials, judges, state and federal officials are all God's delegated authorities. Since they represent God's authority, we must obey them.

Christians are to be law-abiding citizens. The student in school honors God when he obeys the rules of the school and shows respect to his teachers. He dishonors God when he does not do this. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to live our lives by the principle of obedience.

The Bible says, "*Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man FOR THE LORD'S SAKE...*" 1 Peter 2:13

Our Lord was never a party to any rebellion. He taught people to obey governmental authorities. When the Pharisees asked Jesus whether they should pay taxes to Caesar, the Lord replied,

"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Matthew 22:21



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5 Things Christians Should Do For Their Government

Text: Rom. 13:1-7

Introduction: There are a growing number of Christians who think that believers should not be involved in government and politics. Some are afraid of promoting a social gospel, some have given up hope, some have been intimidated, and some have just accepted the fact that politics are just too dirty to get their attention.

AUTHORITY IS FOR EVERYONE

Roman 13 says, "Let every soul be subject...." This indicates that none of us are exempt to being subject. Who are we supposed to be subject to?

Parental Authority *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*—Ephesians 6:1

Spousal Authority *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*—Eph. 5:22

Workplace Authority *Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;*—Ephesians 6:5

Spiritual Authority *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*—Hebrews 13:7, 17

Civil Authority *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:*—1 Peter 2:13–15

1. We Should Pay For Government

v. 6-7 *tribute* = income tax/custom = sales tax...Some Christians, even preachers, say, our government is a pagan government, therefore, we do not owe them taxes, they are not of God! Well, what government was in charge when this was written? *The Roman Empire*...not exactly a Godly government! When Jesus was here on earth, He paid His taxes, and so should we! "But, they're unfair" I agree! "And, it's wasted and used unwisely" I agree! ...but do YOU agree with Romans 13? Then pay your taxes!

2. We Should Pray For Government

1 Tim. 2:1-2 *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."*

Pray for revival/leaders/war on terror/God to use our leaders and defeat our enemies! There's plenty to pray for! We need a revival of doing good:

v. 4 Some say, capital punishment is OT, it's not in the NT! Yes it is! *"He beareth not the electric chair in vain/hangman's noose/lethal injection"*...Sometimes, for government to restrain evil, it must take life. Some say, *"it's not a deterrent"*...We don't know if it is or

not...we never carry it out swiftly and consistently! ***One thing for sure: it's a deterrent to that one!***

We need to pray for a revival of the sanctity of life! Supreme Court justices are getting up in years...in the near future, a president may have the chance to reshape it. We need to vote our consciences, not the economy, and we need to pray like there's no tomorrow that that president does what is right. *"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water, He turns it wherever He wants"*

3. We Should Praise Our Government

v. 7 *"honour"*...Despite all our problems, the USA is still the greatest nation on earth. We need a revival of good old-fashioned patriotism!...And we should honour our leaders, and all that are in authority...like police officers and local leaders, even our boss (good or bad...v. 1), for God placed them in authority over us, we should honor our spiritual leaders...like a missionary, who gives away his life, for the souls of others.

4. We Should Participate In Government

Get informed and vote! It is inconceivable that God would ordain government such as He has, and then tell His people to stay out of it! It is our Christian duty to get informed, and vote! Shame on the Christian who pledges their allegiance to that flag, and then doesn't take action. And, shame on the Christian who pledges their allegiance to a political party, instead of to *principles*...the Biblical principles upon which this nation was founded!

5. We Should Persuade Our Government

How can I really make a difference? We are a republic...that means that, for the most part, public policy is shaped by public opinion. And there's only 1 way to affect public opinion: and it's not billboards, radio, or TV...it's to get the Word of God into the hearts of people. People have often changed their mind about abortion after they got saved...because they found out what God says! They made a new decision based on new information!

The most patriotic thing we can do is not to set off fireworks, or sing a song, but to witness...to win 'em, wet 'em, and wean 'em for the glory of God! Let's join our hearts together, and build a local church that will stand as a great light to a dark and dying world!