

THE CHRISTIAN'S DUTY TO CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Introduction

- 1) **Matthew 22:21** – Jesus said, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”
 - a) Paul was both a Christian and a Roman (Acts 11:26; 22:27-28)
- 2) The Christian is a part of and has duties to an earthly kingdom and God’s kingdom
 - a) These realms will necessarily interact in our daily lives – both exist together
 - b) Church is a spiritual organization – not involved in political endorsements or activism
- 3) The Christian who desires to please God should understand his duty toward civil government

I) **SUBMIT (1 Peter 2:13)**

- A) “Submit” (Gk. *hupotasso*) – to “arrange under”; to put oneself in subjection to; to obey
 - 1) Proper response to all lawful authority – this is the will of God and a godly example to others of our submission to God (vv. 13-15)
 - 2) All lawful authority is appointed [delegated] by God (Rom. 13:1)
- B) Need to be constantly reminded of this duty (Titus 3:1)
 - 1) We tend to resist having restraints put on our words and actions, but to resist lawful authority is to resist God (Rom. 13:2)
- C) We refuse to submit only when it violates our greater submission to God and cause us to transgress His divine will (Acts 5:27-29; Dan. 3)

II) **PRAY (1 Timothy 2:1-2)**

- A) Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks for all men, for kings and all who are in authority – they need our prayers on their behalf
 - 1) Authorities deal with evildoers and troublemakers – provide security and protection that preserves safety, peace, and quiet living (Rom. 13:3-4; Acts 23:24)
- B) Prayer...
 - 1) Demonstrates our faith that God is the ultimate authority (Jn. 19:11)
 - 2) Shows our concern for the good of our leaders and their leadership (Jer. 29:7)
 - 3) Keeps our heart right concerning our authorities (1 Pet. 2:17; Jude 8)
 - a) Applaud good and denounce evil (Mk. 6:18; Lk. 13:32)

II) **GIVE BACK (Matthew 22:21)**

- A) “Render” [Gk. *apodidomi*] – to give back, return, as due (Rom. 13:7)
- B) Taxes are paid to provide for the services of civil government (Rom. 13:6)
 - 1) Roads, post office, schools, waste disposal, etc.
- C) Our giving is participation with and submission to a governing authority
 - 1) Civil government provides a society wherein we can work, live, and worship
 - 2) We must be good and faithful citizens on this earth because we are good and faithful citizens of the kingdom of God

Conclusion

The Christian is to ***submit to, pray for, and give back*** to the civil government they live under. Why? This is the will of God and a good example to others. The chaos that wickedness brings to a society affects everyone in a bad way. In a wicked world, we need civil authorities that will do the work that the divine authority has given them. May we pray for them and seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33).