

Christian Citizens

Romans 13:1-7; Daniel 2:20

The wicked freely strut about when what is vile is honored among men. Psalm 12:8

The Biblical view of Government

1. Origin
2. Function
3. Authority

Our Responsibility to Government as Christians

Christian Citizenship towards Government

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.

Romans 13:1

1. The Government system originates with God.

Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

John 18:9-10

Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.

Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." **John 18:11**

Then Daniel praised the God of heaven and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them.

Daniel 2:19-21

Our American Republic is only as strong as the moral virtue of a majority of its citizens.

“Are we a virtuous enough people to be self-governed?”

2. Functions God has ordained for Government

1. To provide

“For he is God’s servant to do you good.” **Romans 13:4**

2. To protect its citizens

“He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.”

When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong.

Ecclesiastes 8:11

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.

Romans 13:4

3. Government is given an awesome authority to carry out its function, even to the taking of life.

Biblical Principle: *When you take another person's life, you forfeit your right to live.*

*"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. **Genesis 9:6***

Our responsibility to the Government

1. Obedience to the law.

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities,
Romans 13:1

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. **Romans 13:3**

Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.
Romans 13:5

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!" **Acts 5:29**

Open defiance of the law should take place only when the state commands something that directly violates scripture.

We should be prepared to openly accept the consequences of our disobedience.

2. We are to pay taxes.

Our responsibility to the Government

Do everything without complaining or arguing,
Philippians 2:14

so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—

Philippians 2:15-16

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:2***

3. We are to show respect.

Our responsibility to the Government

The difference in third world lawlessness and violence in the streets and America—is directly related to and based upon our law enforcement.

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— **1 Timothy 2:1***

for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and

*quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **1 Timothy 2:2-3***

*“This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty. **Zechariah 4:6***

*if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:14***

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. **James 4:7-8***

Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-

*mind. Grieve, mourn and wail.
Change your laughter to mourning
and your joy to gloom. Humble
yourselves before the Lord, and he
will lift you up. James 4:9-10*