

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE – RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD
GOVERNMENT – PART 1

--ROMANS 13:1-5--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we begin Romans 13. As we go through the first seven verses of this chapter over the next several weeks, I want you to examine your life as I have examined mine this week. As you examine it, I ask that you do not examine it as an American Christian or as a citizen of the United States, but as a citizen of heaven, as a child of God, knowing your true citizenship and home are not this earth but in heaven.

As we continue this morning looking at the Christian life, that is the life that is disciplined, obedient, and Spirit-controlled, the question that is answered in this chapter is what is the Christian's responsibility to society and to government. Over the next couple of weeks, we will look at how Paul answers the question of the Christian's responsibility to the government.

I. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

- (Romans 13:1a)
- a. Paul opens this passage with a straightforward and simple command, "Every person is to be in _____ to the governing authorities." (Romans 13:1a, NASB95)
 - b. Here Paul is speaking specifically to Christians, and Paul is teaching them that their faith in Christ and good _____ should go together.
 - c. Paul in this passage and in other New Testament passages makes truly clear that _____ to human authority applies to all Christians wherever they may live in the world, and under whatever type of government. (1 Peter 2:13-17)
 - d. Now understand that I am not saying that we should not speak about sin, we must _____ against sin.
 - e. The phrase "be in subjection to" is one word in Greek and was often used as a military term which referred to soldiers who were under and _____ to the absolute authority of their superior officer. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

- f. The only time you are not to submit is when any law or command or mandate would require you to _____ God's Word. (Daniel 3; 6; Acts 5:17-32; Colossians 3:16-17)
- g. No government is perfect, and no government will ever be until the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, He will _____ in perfect righteousness and with perfect justice.

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

- a. Paul does not just give us the command to _____ to our government authorities and then move on.
- b. Paul through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit gives us the _____ God wants us to submit to human authority.

IIa. Government is ordained by God (Romans 13:1b)

- a. Paul begins in the second half of verse 1 with the first _____ we are to submit to governing authorities, and this is the primary reason if no other was given.
- b. Paul writes, "For there is _____ authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God." (Romans 13:1b, NASB95)
- c. Paul writes that no authority exists except that which has been _____ by God.
- d. In His sovereignty God created the universe and He absolutely _____ it as well, without exception and with no limitations.
- e. Why then are some _____ so corrupt, so immoral, so cruel, so godless?
- f. We understand that Satan is the _____ of this world having been allowed to usurp it until Jesus Christ returns to claim it for Himself, the rightful Creator and King. (Luke 4:6; Daniel 9-10; Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:12-14)

CONCLUSION:

We are commanded to submit to the governing authorities. If no reason was given, we out of obedience to God must submit, and to submit is more than just obeying the laws and mandates and restrictions

handed down to us by the government. It also means showing respect and honor those officials whom God has placed in office from the highest office in the land to the city councilman in the smallest town. We show respect and honor to those in authority over us and we must be law-abiding citizens. Does this mean just when we are out in public or does it also mean in the privacy of our own homes? My brothers and sisters it means both, and I might add that it has nothing to do with being an American or any other nationality, it has to do with being a child of God and being obedient to His Word.

We obey and submit to the governing authorities because we are commanded to by God if for no other reason. But God has given us a reason, actually seven reasons, we have only covered the first and the primary one, we submit to the governing authorities because God by His sovereign authority has ordained each person to the place of power and authority where He has placed them. God is the one who created and established government and who are we as His children to question what He has done. If God has done it and placed certain people in certain positions of power and authority, we must trust Him that He has done it to fulfill His purpose which may not be to preserve this nation as we know it but to bring us into the glorious reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. My citizenship in this country is temporary and fleeting, my citizenship in heaven is eternal. Who will I be loyal to, who will I obey? The One who gave Himself up for me so that I could have an eternal citizenship in His kingdom. Might that decision cost me something, might it mean that I cannot spend time with friends and extended family for a time because we have been asked not to, might it mean that I have to change some plans or wear a mask or social distance? Yes, it means all those things right now, but in view of eternity it is worth it, to hear my Lord and Savior say to me, *“Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”* (Matthew 25:21, NASB95)