

# The Christian and Her Government

Romans 13:1-7

## I. We must \_\_\_\_\_ civil authorities (1-5)

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. cf. Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13, 14

### A. Because they are \_\_\_\_\_ (1b-2)

*For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

#### 1. Rebellion against authority = \_\_\_\_\_ (2a)

<sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed ...

#### 2. Rebels \_\_\_\_\_ (2b)

*...and those who resist will incur judgment.* cf. II Sam 12:8; Prov 8:15-16; Isaiah 45:1; Jer 27:5-6; Daniel 2:21, 37; 4:17, 25, 32; 5:21

**Note | What about civil disobedience?** cf. Exodus 1:15-20; I Kings 18:4-16; Esther 4:16; Daniel 3:12-18; 6:10; Matthew 2:12; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; Hebrews 11:23

◆ We disobey human authorities when they \_\_\_\_\_ what God \_\_\_\_\_  
or \_\_\_\_\_ what God \_\_\_\_\_.

### B. Because they are \_\_\_\_\_ (3-4)

#### 1. To \_\_\_\_\_ (3a)

<sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. *Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority?*

#### 2. To \_\_\_\_\_ (3b-4a)

*...Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good.* cf. I Peter 2:15-16

#### 3. To \_\_\_\_\_ (4b)

*...But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.* cf. Rom 12:19; Luke 18:7

**Note | Two political doctrines derived from “bear the sword”**

◆ **Capital punishment** cf. Genesis 1:27; 3:24; 9:5–6

◆ **Just war**

*Jus ad bellum:*

1. Proper authority
2. Just cause (imminent danger?)
3. Righteous intent
4. Last resort
5. Favorable prospects

*Jus in bello:*

1. Proportionality
2. Discrimination of targets

*Jus post bellum:*

1. Relief
2. Order
3. Friendship

**C. Because of \_\_\_\_\_ (5)**

*Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.* cf. Acts 24:16; I Corinthians 10:25; II Corinthians 1:12; I Timothy 3:9; I Peter 3:21

**II. We must \_\_\_\_\_ civil authorities**

**A. \_\_\_\_\_ (6)**

*For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.* cf. Mark 12:13–17

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (7)**

*Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.* cf. I Peter 2:17

**At Your Tables | Discuss Questions b, c, g, h, k (if time: 2)**