

God's Perspective on Government (Romans 13:1-7)

Pastor Deric

- (1) Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*
- (2) Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*
- (3) For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, (4) for he is God's servant for your good. 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.*
- (5) Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.*
- (6) For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.*
- (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.*
- (21) They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." [Matthew 22:21 ESV]*
- (29) But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. [Acts 5:29 ESV]*

Practical Application

1. God is the ruler above all others. He governs the universe. He has all authority and power. He is a God of order, structure, design, and purpose. Our Creator is at the top of the hierarchy.
2. God institutes and appoints authorities on earth in the family, society (government), church, workforce, etc.
3. We are all to obey the governing authorities. Obedience to government should be the normal pattern of our lives.
4. We are to obey the governing authorities unless they tell us to disobey God. We are to obey them unless they tell us to do something that God tells us not to do, or unless they tell us not to do something that God says we are to do (Ex. 1:17-21, Dan. 3:12-18, 6:10, Matt. 2:12, Acts 5:29, Heb. 11:23, etc).
5. To resist and disobey the authorities that God has established is to resist and disobey God.
6. There are negative consequences to disobedience to proper authorities. Disobedience brings judgement.
7. Do good and not bad. Do right and not wrong. Christians can do this with God's help and power.
8. Proper governing authorities are servants/ministers/deacons of God. Governing authorities should serve people, do good to people, and protect people. They should render the goodness, justice, and judgement of God.
9. Governing authorities forcefully carry out God's vengeance and wrath against those who do evil.
10. Obey governing authorities for God's glory, the sake of the gospel, your good, and the good of others.

11. Be sensitive to your conscience. It is there to help you know right from wrong, good from evil, light from dark.
12. Pay your taxes to help fund the government for the good of others, your own good, and God's glory.
13. Respect and honor those in positions of governing authority.
14. Above all, love, respect, and honor God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). He is to always come first. Submission to Him comes before submission to anyone else.
15. Jesus Christ is the loving authority of the universe. He came from heaven to earth to serve us through His perfect life, sacrificial death, and resurrection power. Love, trust, hope in, rest in, and obey Him today.

Announcements

- Every Wednesday we have Children's programming (Awana) and Adult Bible Study (6:30-7:30). Dinner starts at 6.
- Mother Daughter Tea is today: Sunday, April 28th after worship.
- Mom and Son Nerf War. K-5th. Friday, May 3 at 6pm. Hotdog supper afterward.
- Baby and Child Dedication: Sunday, May 12. Please let Pastor Deric or our Children's Director, Tiffany Vick know if you would like to participate.
- Kid's summer Soccer Camp will be June 10-12 (6-8pm).
- Kid's summer Art Camp will be July 15-18 (5:30-8pm).
- All of our Small Groups meet weekly. See our small group guide to find one that is best for you.
- Our next Man Church is on May 18th from 5-7.
- Our Youth Group meets each Wednesday night from 6-7:30. See David Barrero for more info.