

Romans 13:1-7

3 Understandings Of God's Design For Government



Background/Context

- Author: Apostle Paul (AD 57)
- Setting: Paul in Corinth while writing (3rd missionary journey)
- Audience: Believers in the churches in Rome
- Theme: Eternal life comes from faith in Jesus alone
- Relationship with Jesus will affect everyday life; home, marketplace, and voting booth

God's Representative Of Authority In Society

- (vv. 1-2) Surprising words from Holy Spirit through writer Paul; Government is God's idea
- As an ideal and institution, Government is ordained by God
- As result, believers are to submit to; "voluntary place under"
- Believers are not to "resist" – rebel and rage against unless biblically justified
- When Gov. enacts laws that go against God and His word, believers are obligated to address and contradict

- Titus 3:1, “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,...”
- Acts 5:29, “But Peter and the other Apostles answered and said: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’”



Government Is To Strongly Curtail Evil

- (vv.3-5) For society to exist and prosper, must be system for keeping peace and safety
- God designed Gov. to oppose evil and all threats to life; this is God's work
- "God's minister.." (same word as "deacon")
- "bear the sword" – "sword instrument of severe punishment"
- "avenger" – "one who executes wrath on another"

- Prov. 29:2, “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.”
- I Tim. 2:1-2, “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made to all men, for kings and all who are in authority,...



Government Is To Be Promoted And Supported By Believers

- (vv. 6-7) As part of submitting, believers are to financially support Gov.
- This means payment of taxes, customs (sales taxes, transfer fees), and give honor and respect to Gov.
- “Yes”, to paying taxes to Caesar, but “no” to paying worship to Caesar
- If Gov. enacts laws that are anti-God, believers are to be faithful to the Word and disobey with respect

- Eccles. 8:2-3, “I say, ‘Keep the king’s commandment for the sake of your oath to God.’ ‘Do not be hasty to go from his presence.’ ‘Do not take your stand for an evil thing, for he does whatever pleases him.’”
- Ps. 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,..”



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