



# CHURCH & CULTURE

## CHRIST & POLITICS.

There are many views about government in the church today. Some view it as a great evil, some as a great hope. Generally, we hear we should honor the authorities and many would also say we don't follow them blindly.

It's easy to talk about current times. What happens when you're hiding Jews in Germany and the Nazi government comes to see you?

Of course, no Jesus follower can be forced to do what God specifically forbids. God's law always wins. In fact, God always wins. He is in control, regardless of who is in office. Because of this, we can honor authorities here on earth, stay engaged in current events, and vote, while simultaneously confidently trusting in a sovereign God and a greater Kingdom.

Still, for many of us, it can be difficult to pray for the country, especially if the party we favor is not the one in charge. Maybe Paul has some advice for us today.

# IN THE BIBLE.

## **Romans 13:1-7**

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 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 you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. 6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

## **1 Timothy 2:1-4**

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

# QUESTIONS.

- 1.) Do you think there's ever a place for something like civil disobedience? What are some examples?
- 2.) How do you respond to a wicked government? How about a good one?
- 3.) What are some specific examples of ways we can be reflections of Christ in the midst of an intense political season?
- 4.) Do you pray for your elected officials?

**Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:**

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?