

ROMANS 13:2-5—THE CHRISTIAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE GOVERNMENT

REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS ARE TO SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY

1. GOVERNMENT IS BY DIVINE DECREE

Human government is ordained by God for the benefit of society.

Robert Haldane says “ civil government is a dispensation of mercy, and its existence is so indispensable, that the moment it ceases under one form, it will re-establish itself in another.” Because of corruption and depravity, that without the powerful obstacle presented by civil government... it would be better to live among beasts of the forest than in human society. As soon as its restraints are removed, man shows himself in his real character. When no king in Israel ruled, everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

It is an institution of God, like marriage and the church. It is valid regardless of any time, circumstance, or place.

God grants power to governmental leaders, but all power comes from Him.

The entire universe is subject to God.

Acts 17:24-26

What about Satan? It seems that Satan is having his way. God actually has Permitted him to have a vast but limited power over the world and mankind. Satan cannot make man sin but ever since the fall, he entices men to indulge their sinful nature and manifest their disobedience to God.

Eph 2:1-2, 1 Jn 5:19, Jn 12:31,16:11, 14:30

Isa 14, Ezek 28

Although human government was instituted by God and fulfills God's plan for maintaining order on earth, many governments are under the influence of Satan and are a means of promoting satanic activity.

Hitler, Stalin, Mao Tse Tung, Babylonian empire, Roman empire, etc.

Shaman ruled animistic tribes.

God still uses this institution for His plan for fallen mankind.

2. RESISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT IS REBELLION AGAINST GOD

Since government is an institution of God, to rebel against it, is to rebel against God.

Numbers 16:3,13,31-35, 41, 46-49 God is serious against this rebellion.

3. RESISTANCE WILL BE PUNISHED

Since government is a minister of God, one who rebels, will suffer consequences from the government.

Matthew 26:52, Romans 13:4, deut 29:13

1. Justice

Justice is to be brought on by the authorities and not the one who was offended.

The state must know what good is. There has to be absolutes. Does the judge

Have the right to rule as he wishes not abiding by the Constitution? Can he

Make laws and change laws from the bench?

2. Deterrent to further crime

Serious punishment according to the crime should discourage people from committing a crime.

3. Impartiality—Deut 13:6

The guilty are to be punished regarding of their social standing or wealth.

4. Without delay---Eccl 8:11

Punishment was to be done on the spot. As soon as there was a sentencing.

A speedy trial is what is in most democratic constitutions.

5. Pardon and rehabilitation --Deut 25:3

There was a limit to the lashings. Criminals were not to be permanently stigmatized. They were to be welcomed back in society.

4. GOVERNMENT SERVES TO RESTRAIN EVIL

Eccl 8:11

A. To defend its citizens from enemies outside the state

It has power to wage war with other nations. This includes all the powers that go with that, such as drafting, taxing for war efforts

B. To defend its citizens from evildoers within

This is to maintain social order. Pray for the government that we would continue to be able to bring forth the gospel in peacefulness.

5. GOVERNMENT SERVES TO PROMOTE GOOD

Even the most wicked countries have a system that is deterrent to crimes.

In totalitarian governments, crime rates are much lower than in this country.

Evil behavior is to be punished.

Acts 25:11, Acts 19:38-39, 1 Tim 2:1-2

Establishing, exercising, and maintaining justice

Rewarding good behavior

6. RULERS ARE EMPOWERED BY GOD TO INFLICT PUNISHMENT

Gen 9:6, Matthew 26:52, Acts 25:11, Ezek 7:23-24

This even means capital punishment. When a society rejects capital punishment

For even murder, it comes under blood guilt from God.---Gen 4:10

Abortion is murder. The land cries out for the blood of millions. God will answer.

A. Government cannot develop morality

The govt is to defend its citizens but cannot change evil doers. That is the job of the Holy Spirit.

B. Morality comes from revealed religion

Morality ultimately can only come from God. We don't need more laws but

We need people who know God and want to live by His moral laws.

2 Chron 7:14

7. GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO FOR CONSCIENCE SAKE

1 Pet 2:13-15