

# “Government”

From the Preamble of the Constitution we know that our founding fathers wished to “form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.” In this passage, Peter identifies (1) the REASON for government, and (2) the ROLE of Christians toward Government.

## I. What is the REASON FOR GOVERNMENT?

- A. Government is to provide for MORAL and CIVIL ORDER (“domestic tranquility”) (v. 14 “...for the punishment of evil doers and the praise of those who do right.”)
  - 1. Romans 13:4b
  - 2. Romans 13:3
  - 3. Romans 3:20
- B. Government is to provide for FAIR JUDICIAL ORDER (“establish justice”)(Four progressive principles:)
  - 1. Freedom requires responsibility (v. 16 “Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil...but as bond slaves of God”).
  - 2. Responsibility necessitates justice (cf. Romans 13:2).
  - 3. Justice requires government (cf. Romans 13:4).
  - 4. Government requires law (i.e. ten commandments).

## II. What is the RESPONSIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT?

- A. PRAY (I Timothy 2:1-2)
- B. PAY (Romans 13:6-7)-i.e. taxes
- C. PARTICIPATE (be informed, vote, run for office)
- D. PRACTICE godliness (v. 17)

Government is established by God and has an important role in the world. We have a responsibility to live and serve God’s purpose within government.