

God ESTABLISHED Government ~ Romans 13:1-7

→Scripture Reading Matthew 22.15-22

INTRODUCTION

With one sentence Jesus Established the VALIDITY of human government, while at the same time setting its LIMITS. ...There IS a proper domain and function for human government. However, God has stamped His own image on man. Man may give outward things to Caesar, but the inner man belongs to God. K. Hughes

Government Serves God's Purposes ~ Romans 13:1-7

[1] Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

SUBMIT- is to Recognize the authorities place OVER the believer in the order that exists in the world. DA Carson

Daniel 2:20-21 (NIV) ...Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His. [21] He changes times and seasons; He sets up KINGS and DEPOSES them...

[2] Consequently, he who 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 he will commend you. [4] For he is **God's servant** to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an **agent of wrath** to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

God's way of dealing with EVIL is NOT by personal vengeance, but through JUSTICE dispensed by the state. RK Hughes

[5] Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because 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 everyone what you OWE him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Romans 13 Does NOT tell us what...

- KIND of government is BEST
- to DO if a government is EVIL or UNJUST
- to DO we if there is a REVOLUTION or a CIVIL WAR

IMPLICATIONS

→Some FORM of Government is Necessary

Judges 17:6 (NIV) In those days Israel had no king; everyone DID as he SAW FIT.

→We are CITIZENS of Heaven that should Impact how we Live HERE

Philippians 3:20 (NLT) But we are CITIZENS of HEAVEN, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are EAGERLY waiting for Him to RETURN as our Savior.

1 Peter 2:19-20 (NLT) For God is pleased with you when you DO what you know is RIGHT and patiently endure UNFAIR treatment. [20] Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

→Civil DISOBEDIENCE is Justified Sometimes

Clear Passages in Scripture Interpret the LESS Clear

General Statements - are explained or made clear by Parallel Scriptures Example in the Bible

Exodus 1:16-17 (NIV) When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." [17] The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

When government commands us to do something CONTRARY to our ULTIMATE Lord we are free - indeed OBLIGATED - to DISOBEY. DA Carson

Daniel 3:16-18 (NIV) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. [17] If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. [18] But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.

When the will of man CONFLICTS with the will of God, the Christian must CHOOSE to do the will of God. Constable

Acts 5:28-29 (NIV) We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have FILLED Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." [29] Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must OBEY God rather than men!

We Must DISOBEY Government if it Asks Us to... RK Hughes

- VIOLATE any commandment of God
- COMMIT an immoral or unethical act
- GO AGAINST our Christian conscience

FEAR God and Honor the King ~ 1 Peter 2:13-17

[13] Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, [14] or to governors, who are SENT by him to PUNISH those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

Peter did not say OBEY. Submission includes obedience, but it also includes an ATTITUDE from which the obedience springs. Constable

[15] For it is God's WILL that by doing GOOD you should SILENCE the ignorant talk of foolish men. [16] Live as FREE men, but do NOT use your FREEDOM as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. [17] Show PROPER respect to EVERYONE: Love the brotherhood of believers, FEAR God, honor the king.

IMPLICATIONS

→ It is God's Will for us to DO GOOD

→ We must Show Proper RESPECT for Everyone

TAKE AWAY??

Daniel 4:34-35 (NIV) At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified HIM who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation. [35] All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"