

To OBEY or NOT to OBEY? ~ Romans 13:1-7

→ Scripture Reading Rom. 13:1-2, 4-6

INTRODUCTION

Matthew 22:20-21 (NIV) ...Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription? ²¹ Caesar's, they replied. Then he said to them, Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.

With this single sentence our Lord Jesus established the VALIDITY of human government, while at the same time setting its LIMITS. PTW

Submit to Government Authorities ~ Romans 13:1-5

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. 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. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

Governmental force, PROPERLY used, helps prevent tyranny and implements justice; it brings punishment on the wrongdoer. BKC

⁴...government is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong. (HCS)

Why SUBMIT to Governing Authorities? because...

- God INSTITUTED them
- those who RESISTS this Authority they are Rebelling AGAINST God
- we have nothing to Fear IF we DO Right
- they are God's servants to Do GOOD for us
- if we do WRONG they have the Sword of Judgment
- we will Avoid PUNISHMENT
- we will have a CLEAR Conscience

IMPLICATIONS

WHAT IF... the government requires me to do something against the Word of God?

Subjection to the state is **not to be confused** with unthinking, blind, passive conformity. Expositor's

WHAT IF... the government is Oppressive to others even if it does not affect me?

WHAT IF... I can do what is required and no one will ever know?

Christians MUST Disobey Government if asked... PTW

- to VIOLATE one of God's Commands
- to do something IMMORAL
- to go against their CONSCIENCE

Give Respect and Honor ~ Romans 13:6-7

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.

IMPLICATIONS

⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them... (NLT)

⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give RESPECT and HONOR to those who are in authority. (NLT)

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NLT) I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. ² Pray this WAY for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.

Early Christians refused to worship emperor or state, but they **showed their respect** by praying for the authorities. HCSB

TAKE AWAY ??