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The Christian and Civil Authority



Romans 13:1-3 NLT Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.<sup>2</sup> So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. <sup>3</sup> For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you.

Romans 13:4-5 NLT The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. <sup>5</sup> So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

Romans 13:6-7 NLT Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. <sup>7</sup> 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.

### Necessity of Subordination in Service

Romans 12:1-8 | Subordination to God Romans 12:9-21 | Subordination to Others Romans 13:1-7 | Subordination to Civil Authority

### Romans 13:1 NIV 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.

Proverbs 21:1 NET The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord like channels of water; he turns it wherever he wants.



### Matthew 26:55 NIV In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me."

**1 Peter 2:16-17 NIV** Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. Mark 12:13-14 NLT Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. <sup>14</sup> "Teacher," they said, "we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don't play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us-is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

Mark 12:15-17 NLT "Should we pay them, or shouldn't we?" Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, "Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I'll tell you." <sup>16</sup> When they handed it to him, he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" "Caesar's," they replied. <sup>17</sup> "Well, then," Jesus said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." His reply completely amazed them.

do right.

### 1 Peter 2:13-14 NIV Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who

Romans 13:2-3 NIV Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> 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.

### Romans 13:4 NIV 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.

Romans 13:5-7 NIV Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. <sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> 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.

Acts 4:18-20 NIV Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 5:27-29 NIV The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. <sup>28</sup> "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." <sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!"

### **Civil Disobedience**

### When it violates God's greater law or commands

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### When it violates God's greater law or commands When asked to do something indefensibly immoral or unethical

### **Civil Disobedience**

When it violates God's greater law or commands When asked to do something indefensibly immoral or unethical When it violates your Biblically informed Christian conscience

### **Political Realism**

Living within the political system, even if that means living, to a large extent, by the terms set by that system

## What will the legacy of your faith be?

256 512 1,024 2,048 4,096 8,492 16,384 32,768

66,536 131,072 262,144 524,288 1,048,576 2,097,152 4,194,304 8,388,608

### What are we to do?

Get involved. Tell your story, share your faith. Make disciples. Pray for those in authority.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 NIV I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.