

“The Government and You”

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

Romans 13:1-4

Truth #1: God has ordained _____ main institutions for _____ a healthy society:

1. _____ (Gen. 2:24,25; 1:28)
2. _____ (Gen. 9:6,7; Rev. 9:11)
3. _____ (Mt. 5:13; 2 Thess. 2:1-10; Mt. 24:21; Dan. 12:1)

Truth #2: As a Christian, you are to _____ the laws of your government unless they _____ the laws of God. In other words, be a _____ citizen!

(Rom. 13:1,2; 1 Pet. 2:13-15; Titus 3:1,2; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Acts 5:29; Rom. 13:6,7; Mk. 12:17)

Truth #3: God has ordained governments to _____ and to _____ evil. (Rom. 13:3,4)

Discussion Questions

1. Take a few moments to review your sermon notes, commenting briefly about each of the three institutions ordained by God.
2. Which of the three institutions have had the greatest positive effect on your life? Explain your answer. Which have had the most negative effect on your life? Once again, please explain your answer.
3. Do you think Christians in America are generally viewed as “good citizens”? Explain your answer.
4. Many Christians live under very oppressive regimes. How would you counsel such Christians in light of the Scriptural teaching in Romans 13?
5. How should Christians show their disagreement with government decisions? How should they show their disagreement with society’s values and teachings?
6. Read the following Scriptures and list as many things as you can that these passages teach about being a “good citizen”: Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-15; Titus 3:1,2; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Acts 5:29; Mt. 27:11-14.

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Truth Matters
Perry Alexander
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