

A Theology of Government

Jim Gallagher 2024-06-30

1 Peter 2:13-17

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Titus 3:1

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work

Romans 13:1-7

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

Mark 12:16

So they brought it.

And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's."

Mark 12:17

And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

And they marveled at Him.

Point 1

Government was established by God

John 19:10-11

Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”

Jesus answered, “**You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.** Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

Romans 13:1

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.**

Point 2

The Role of Government is to maintain peace and uphold the law

1 Peter 2:14

or to governors, as to those who are sent by him **for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.**

Romans 13:4

For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, **an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.**

Point 3

The Christian has a Responsibility to government

Mark 12:17

And Jesus answered and said to them, “**Render** to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

And they marveled at Him.

Verbs used to describe Christian Responsibility

Slide 1

1 Timothy 2:1-2

- Pray

Slide 2

Titus 3:1-2

- Subject
- Obey
- Be Ready for good works

Slide 3

1 Peter 2:13-17

- Submit
- Honor

Slide 4

Romans 13:1-7

- Subject
- Don't resist
- Do what is good
 - Lawful
- Don't do evil
 - Unlawful

Point 4

When should a Christian disobey government?

Slide 1

- NOT whenever you feel like it or do not agree with the rules

Slide 2

- ONLY when laws of man violate the higher laws of God

Acts 5:28-29

saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

