

GOD & GOVERNMENT

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE  [ROMANS 12:1-2, 14-21, 13:1-7](#)

The Christian's Relationship to Earthly Government:

1. _____ (Romans 13:1&5)
2. **GOD IS IN _____ OF WHO IS IN _____** (Romans 13:1b-2)
3. **GOVERNMENTS ROLE IS TO _____ AND _____** (Romans 13:3-5)
4. **OUR ROLE IS TO HONOR THE _____ AND PRAY FOR THE _____** (Romans 13:6-7)

Is there ever a time for civil disobedience?

5. **YOUR _____** (Romans 13:5)
 - **If the law is _____ – _____ it!**
 - **If the law is _____ – _____ it or willingly _____ the consequences.**
 - **If the law is _____ – _____ it and willingly _____ the consequences.**

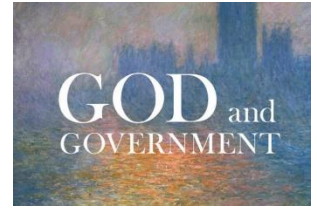
A Christian must be a _____ citizen until being a _____ citizen means being a _____ Christian.

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Message: GOD & GOVERNMENT

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: February 20, 2022



Connect (20min)

*If helpful, break into groups of 3-4 or men & women to share and pray for *Connect*.

1. FOREIGN AMBASSADORS

*If you had to serve as a Canadian Ambassador which foreign country would you prefer to live in, and why?

2. CHECK-IN: Using a scale of 1-10 (poor-excellent) how is your health today?

a. *Physical Health* **b.** *Mental Health* **c.** *Spiritual Health*

3. OPEN UP – 📖 Read [2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#). Respond with Praise to God & Prayer for One Another.

Message Discussion (45min)

1. GOD & GOVERNMENT

a. Do you tend to avoid conversation around *religion and politics*, or do you enjoy conversations on *religion and politics*? Discuss.

b. If you had to be a politician in Canada would you prefer to serve in *Municipal (Local), Provincial or Federal* politics? Which role in that political arena would interest or suit you the most?

c. What did you learn from Sunday's Message? What encouraged, challenged or surprised you? Did it cause you to evaluate your posture and thoughts towards government? Discuss.

2. AUTHORITY

a. Do you prefer to be under someone's authority or have authority over someone, and why?

b. Have you ever read or heard something from the Bible you don't like or agree with? How did you navigate your thoughts and feelings about that information? Discuss.

c. 📖 Read [Romans 12:1-2, 14-21](#)

What do these verses teach us about how we should live and think?

d. 📖 Read [Romans 13:1-7](#)

i. What is your knee-jerk response to these verses?

ii. Have you ever viewed the government through the filter of these verses? Why/why not?

iii. Do you think our Gospel witness would be strengthened if we saw the government the way Paul tells us to?

iv. How can a wrong view of government hurt our witness for Christ? Discuss.

3. CITIZENS & AMBASSADORS

*Shawn gave some perspective to the government of the day. He mentioned that Paul wrote these words as a crazy dictator named [Nero](#) was burning Christians to light up his gardens.

a. With that information how do Paul's words impact you and our current struggles with government?

b. *Romans* compels us to submit even to the most wicked leaders...

Why would God want us to do such a thing?

c. How does the sovereignty of God impact your view and posture towards government?

Does it bring you peace? Does it help you trust God more? Discuss.

d. Why is biblical submission to authority not only mandatory but also essential for us as followers of Jesus?

Consider these Scriptures to help navigate this question – [Hebrews 10:32-36](#), [James 1:2-4](#), [Romans 5:1-5](#).

e. Can you think of any significant character-building lessons you have learned in the past when having to deal with a difficult authority figure?

f. Shawn talked about whether there is ever a time for civil disobedience.

Do you remember the principles he shared? What are your thoughts on these principles?

i. *If the law is just – obey it!*

ii. *If the law is stupid – obey it or willingly accept the consequences (ie speeding)*

iii. *If the law is sinful – disobey it and willingly accept the consequences.*

A Christian is to be a good citizen until being a good citizen means being a bad Christian.

g. 📖 Read [Galatians 5:16-26](#)

*How do these instructions encourage us to live in this world as *citizens and ambassadors*?

h. 📖 Read [Mark 12:13-17](#)

*How do these words of Jesus help you in regard to *honoring government and honoring God*? Discuss.

Application & Prayer (15min)

📖 Read [1 Timothy 2:1-7](#).

- Name some governing authorities (local and beyond) to pray for and pray for them together.
- Pray for strength to keep God's commands. Pray for each other's needs or requests.

Book: [Living Among Lions: How to Thrive Like Daniel In Today's Babylon](#), David Benham & Jason Benham