

God and Government



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Our Purpose: To be a community of believers where, no matter who you are, you can experience life change through Jesus Christ.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

—Romans 13:1-2 (ESV)

1. God Instituted Government

A. To Restrain Evil

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

—Romans 13:3 (ESV)

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

—1 Peter 2:13-14 (ESV)

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

—Judges 21:25 (ESV)

for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

—Romans 13:4 (ESV)

B. To Encourage Good

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

—1 Peter 2:13-14 (ESV)

2. God Did NOT Institute Government in Order:

A. To Mandate a Christian Society

Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" 21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

—Matthew 22:19-21 (ESV)

1. The Church should not have authority over civil government
2. Civil government should not control the Church

B. To Address People's Deepest Need

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...

—Romans 1:16 (ESV)

God Instituted Government to Govern the People.

God Instituted the Church to Transform People.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

—Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)