

Citizen-Saints

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 13:1-7.
- B. Subject: a Christian's relationship to government.
- C. The Christian's citizenship is in heaven and their status is aliens on the earth. (Philippians)

II. Governments are God's institutions.

- A. The authority behind the authority is God.
- B. All governments are of God—even those that are evil.
- C. God puts in power the men of His choosing.
- D. There is a great deal of truth in the statement that God gives each government the one they deserve.
 - 1. God is governing only to a limited extent because He is waiting to do something different.
 - 2. That God does not set up the perfect government is evidence of His grace.
 - 3. God has come to save and this is the great task entrusted to those who know the Lord.
- E. It is essential that there would be a Christian witness in the governmental agencies just as in the church of Antioch.

III. Governments are God's instruments.

- A. The man in power is the servant of God to aid or to hinder.
- B. To resist human authority is to resist God.
- C. When human authority goes against the will of God, it is proper to rebuke and resist it.
- D. God uses the instrumentality of the human being for judgment.
- E. Capital punishment is the act of God in society.

IV. Governments are God's intruders.

- A. Tax collectors are generally construed as invaders.

B. Christians are under a higher law than others—they do not act out of fear of man but obedience to God.

C. The way you treat government officials is a testimony to your Christian life.

D. A Christian is simply a body that Christ walks through in this life.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone claiming that a Christian need only obey God and can break the law?

2. How has God used government as an agent of judgment in the Bible? How has He used them in the past?

3. What does proper obedience to government officials look like, and how can this have a positive result?
