

The Christian's Responsibility to Government, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 13:1-7.
- B. The matter of responding to government has always been an issue that Christians have faced.
- C. The church's call is not to focus on government policy.
- D. Christians are to continue to exercise their responsibilities as citizens, nevertheless.
- E. Change comes from the inside—not the outside.
- F. Christians are to be the conscience of the nation through preaching and godly living.
- G. Jesus did not know democracy, but He still said to render unto Caesar what was due him and God what was due Him. Jesus focused on spiritual order not social order.
- H. Paul says there are two things required of Christians for government.

II. Be subject to higher powers.

- A. Justice is not the role of the individual—it is the role of government.
- B. The Jews by contrast did not want to live in submission to outside government. (John 8, Acts 5:36, Deuteronomy 17:15)
- C. Believers are encouraged to face persecutions that come from government. (Acts 18, 17)
- D. Believers face persecution by submitting to authorities. (I Peter 2:12, Romans 13:1, 15)
- E. This is an individual duty. (I Timothy 2:1-2)
- F. The one time we have a right to disobey government is when it calls a Christian to disobey God's commands. (Acts 4, 5:28)

III. Pay your taxes.

Application questions:

1. Is it wrong for a Christian to be involved in social issues? Explain.

2. How did the Jews serve as a contrast with Christians in their attitude towards government?

3. How are we to respond when the government persecutes us for doing what God commands? Why?
