

# The Christian's Responsibility to Government

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## I. Introduction.

A. Christianity is a total life experience. (Ephesians 5-6, Colossians 3, I Thessalonians 4:1)

B. We are given clear instructions about our relationship with the government. Our salvation affects this relationship. Our testimony is impacted by this relationship. (Romans 13, I Peter 2:12)

C. Believers are to pray for their authorities to lead a quiet and peaceable life. There is no place for revolution for the Christian. Instead, prayer must come first. (I Timothy 2:1-4, Jeremiah 29:7, II Corinthians 10:3)

D. Believers are to seek peace before their authorities.

E. Believers are called to a spirit of submission before authorities. (Titus 3:1, 8)

F. Text: Romans 13.

## II. Every Christian is to be subject to higher authorities. (Matthew 23)

A. The only time we are to break this command is if it violates something God has called us to do or something that God has forbidden us from doing. (Exodus 1, Daniel 1)

B. The pattern:

1. Normally, we are to be model citizens.

2. We only disobey when we are asked to do something that is forbidden or forbidden to do something to which God calls us.

3. We should not obey overtly until we do everything we can to resolve a matter peaceably.

4. If disobedience is necessary, we must be willing to accept the consequence of it.

C. Reasons for this command.

1. Government is by divine decree. (Psalm 62, Acts 17)

2. Resistance to government is rebellion against God.

3. If one resists the government, he will be punished. (I Corinthians 11:29, Ecclesiastes 8:11)

4. Government serves to restrain evil.

**Application questions:**

1. What are some instances that it is acceptable to resist government? What should this look like if it has to happen?

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2. Which reason for obeying this command stands out to you the most? What strikes you about it?

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3. What are some instances that it is not acceptable to resist the government that many Christians partake in anyway?

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