

The Christian's Response to Government, Part 3

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 13:1-7.

B. Christians live by a whole different set of priorities than the rest of the world, which raises questions about their relationship to the government.

C. Many Christians have lost a sense of their uniqueness evidenced by materialism, preoccupation with political systems and a lack of concern for purity.

II. As a group Christians ought not to be primarily concerned with winning men and women through political means. (Matthew 8, Acts 10, 13, 16, 26-28, Philippians 4:22)

A. If a Christian is in government service, he should serve there accordingly.

B. However, political means should not be used for spiritual ends.

III. What a Christian is to do with government.

A. Submit to it. (1 Timothy 2:1-4, Titus 3:1-8, 1 Peter 2:12-17)

B. Pay your taxes.

IV. A testimony will raise some hostility with government, so one must be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. (Matthew 10)

V. There is no power that is not of God—government is by God.

A. God had give government the right to punish evil. (Exodus 21:23, Deuteronomy 22, Ecclesiastes 8)

B. A government has an obligation to punish people according to their crime.

Application questions:

1. Look up the following texts: 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Titus 3:1-8, 1 Peter 2:12-17. Why submit to government?

2. What does it look like to be as wise as a serpent?

3. Under what circumstances is a Christian obliged to disobey government? Explain.
