

The Believer as a Citizen

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 17:22-27.

B. What kind of relationship should Christians have with the world?

C. There is a sense that we are called to be apart from the world--we are called to a higher order. (Philippians 3:17, Ephesians 2:19, Hebrews 12:22, Philippians 2)

II. The believer is to live so as not to be criticized by the world by obeying every law. (I Peter 2:9-10, Colossians 1)

A. Believers should submit to the law of man.

B. When the world sets up laws, we are to be obedient to demonstrate that we are obedient people.

C. If Christianity could be reduced to an insurrection movement, no one who is obedient would be interested.

D. The basic principle is to submit.

E. We are to submit so long as the laws of man do not conflict with the laws of God. (Acts 4:5)

F. The king is to be honored. (I Timothy 2)

G. Generally speaking, governments keep rule. (Romans 13)

III. Jesus paid the temple tax when it was required of him. (Matthew 17:22-27, Mark 9:30, Acts 2)

A. Jesus always paid his taxes. (Exodus 30:11)

B. The disciples were free from the tax under Jesus' rule, but the tax was still paid for them all. (Luke 2:49, Matthew 12:6, John 2:16)

C. Although we are not a part of the world system, we are still obliged to earthly citizenship. (I Peter 2)

Application questions:

1. What are some ways that Christians fail to submit to their governments as the Scripture demands?

2. What are some instances that a Christian should not submit to their government? Explain.

3. How is Jesus the paradigm for submitting to government authorities even though He was above them?
