

# God's Strange Servants

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 13:1-7.

B. The text deals with a Christian and his relationship with the government.

## II. We must think of the government as a servant of God.

A. You cannot establish which form of government is the most God-honored form since God in the Scripture brings about several forms for different people.

B. Do not think of any form of government as opposed to God.

C. Some governments are better suited for certain peoples than others.

D. Not only are the forms of government brought about by God, but also the people occupying the office.

1. Sometimes, we are sent good men to rule.

2. Other times we are sent bad men to rule as punishment.

3. Sometimes, God picks the lowliest of men and puts them in power.

## III. If God is behind government then those opposing government oppose God.

A. Governments have a God-given right to oppose those who would overthrow them.

B. There are limits to the power of government though—Caesar has no right to command the worship of man.

C. Believers are to accept legitimate functions of government.

1. Governments are to protect us from evil—the security of the people.

2. Governments are for the commending of good—recognizing good, providing for the common defense and providing for common needs.

D. The powers of government.

1. Force—government even has the right to take one's life.

2. Taxing.

E. It is right to submit to the authority because of consequence and conscience.

1. We ought to give everyone what we owe him or her.
2. We need to have a proper attitude about these matters—a positive one.

**Application questions:**

1. How can an evil government properly be called God's servant?

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2. Why is a democracy not necessarily the right form of government?

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3. When have you failed to be obey the government? Was this disobedience proper in light of Scripture?

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