

ROMANS
Our Message to the World
AMEN Bible Study 2015-2016

The Christian Statesman
Romans 13:1-7
March 24, 2016

I. We must obey civil authorities.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.

cf. Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13, 14

A. Because they are ordained by God.

For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

1. Rebellion against authority = rebellion against God.

²*Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed,*

2. Rebels bring judgment on themselves.

...and those who resist will incur judgment.

cf. II Sam 12:8; Prov 8:15-16; Isaiah 45:1; Jer 27:5-6; Daniel 2:21, 37; 4:17, 25, 32; 5:21

Note: What about civil disobedience?

cf. Exodus 1:15-20; I Kings 18:4-16; Esther 4:16; Daniel 3:12-18; 6:10; Matthew 2:12; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; Hebrews 11:23

◆ We disobey human authorities when they forbid what God commands or command what God forbids.

B. Because they are servants of God.

1. To punish evil

³*For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority?*

2. To commend good

...Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good.

cf. I Peter 2:15-16

3. To avenge God's wrath

...But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. cf. Rom 12:19; Luke 18:7

Note: Two political doctrines from "bear the sword":

◆ Capital punishment

cf. Genesis 1:27; 3:24; 9:5-6

◆ Just war

Jus ad bellum:

1. Proper authority
2. Just cause (imminent danger?)
3. Righteous intent
4. Last resort
5. Favorable prospects

Jus in bello:

1. Proportionality
2. Discrimination of targets

Jus post bellum:

1. Relief
2. Order
3. Friendship

C. Because of conscience

⁵ *Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.*

cf. Acts 24:16; I Corinthians 10:25; II Corinthians 1:12; I Timothy 3:9; I Peter 3:21

II. We must pay civil authorities.

A. Taxes

⁶ *For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.*

cf. Mark 12:13-17

B. Respect and honor

⁷ *Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.*

cf. I Peter 2:17