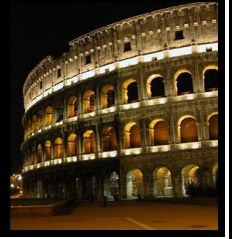


Paul's Epistle to the ROMANS

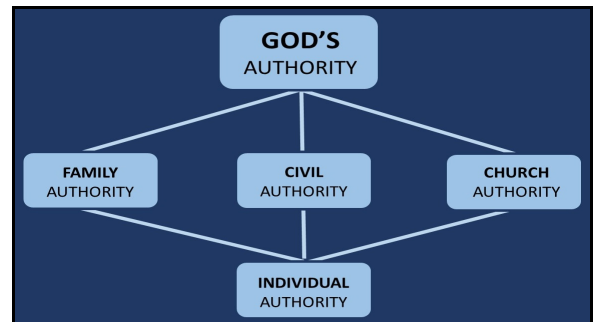
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"The Christian's Responsibility as a Citizen" Romans 13:1-7



Introduction:

I. GOD HAS APPOINTED HUMAN GOVERNMENT (13:1-2)



A. The Duty of Civil Obedience (vs. 1)

1) Reasons for human government:

- a) an educational function
- b) a beneficial function
- c) a punitive function
- d) a deterrent function

2) Reasons for civil obedience:

- vs. 1 - God himself has established all civil authorities
- vs. 2a - resistance to constituted government is resistance to God
- vs. 2b - those who resist will be punished
- vs. 3a - rulers restrain evil
- vs. 3b - rulers promote good things for their people
- vs. 4b - rulers are empowered by God to inflict punishment on evil-doers
- vs. 5 - for conscience sake

B. The Denial of Civil Disobedience (vs. 2)

Question: From where is government to get its definitions of good and evil?

Question: How are we to respond if a government usurps the place of God?

Question: Should a Christian ever be critical of civil authorities?

1) Possible reasons for civil disobedience:

- broad principles that govern civil disobedience:

1) "we must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29)

2) we must disobey the king when he prohibits what God commands (Exodus, Judges, Daniel)

- limited categories that might require civil disobedience:

1) worship (Daniel 3 & 6)

2) evangelism (Acts 4:18; 5:29)

3) preservation of life (Exodus 1 - midwives; Joshua 2 - Rahab and the spies; I Kings 18 - Obadiah and 100 prophets protected from Ahab)

- 2) Manner of civil disobedience:
 - a) in the case of a clear violation (not grey areas)
 - b) not as an individual/vigilante (see Rom. 12:19 - "never take your own revenge")
 - c) as a last resort when other means have been exhausted
 - d) accept the consequences when necessary
 - e) governed by a humble spirit and a loving heart (Daniel's example)

II. GOD HAS ARMED HUMAN GOVERNMENT (13:3-4)

A. To Reward Good Behavior (vs. 3-4a)

B. To Punish Bad Behavior (vs. 4b)

III. GOD HAS AUTHORIZED HUMAN GOVERNMENT (13:5-7)

A. Authorized to receive our monetary support. (vs. 5-6)

B. Authorized to receive our moral support. (vs. 7; c.f. I Peter 2:13-15)

Conclusion:

- 1) thank God for my heritage as an American
- 2) do my duty as a citizen
- 3) be active in promoting good government
- 4) pray for our leaders