

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not? Shall we pay or shall we not pay?..."

... And Jesus said to them, "*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.*"

(Mark 12:14-17)

¹ Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;

⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

⁵ Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

(Romans 13:1-7)

Why this Subject?

1. Very relevant to all Christians, especially to those in Rome!
2. Possibly confusing to Christians, who are subjects of a "new age" and are not to conform to this age
3. Flows naturally out of Paul's instruction about not returning evil for evil or taking vengeance

Subjection to Government

A. Central Command: "Submit"

- we are to recognize that civil institutions and their officers have authority over us
- this usually demands obedience, but may allow for disobedience in exceptional circumstances

Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, (Titus 3:1)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. (1 Peter 2:13-14)

Subjection to Government

B. Primary Reason

- all governing authorities, including those existing now, have been appointed by God
- in His wise providence, God has ordained every governing authority that has ever existed

Daniel said,
 "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,
 For wisdom and power belong to Him.
 It is He who changes the times and the epochs;
 He removes kings and establishes kings;
 (Daniel 2:20-21)

...In order that the living may know
 That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind,
 And bestows it on whom He wishes...
 (Daniel 4:17)

Subjection to Government

C. Consequence

- to oppose governing authorities is, in most cases, to oppose God and incur His judgment

Subjection to Government

➤ Implications

- 1) Civil government is not something human beings have created or contracted, but something God has instituted (Gen. 1:28; 9:5-6)
- 2) God instituted human government as a means of upholding His basic law in human society (Rom. 13:4 – "a minister of God")