

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

¹ Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except by 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)

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy and pleasing to God, *which is your reasonable worship*.

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.

(Romans 12:1-2)

“Ministers of God”

➤ Review: Fundamental Principles

- (1) *Command*: every Christian is to be in subjection to the existing governing authorities
- (2) *Reason*: all governing authorities, including those existing now, have been instituted by God

“Ministers of God”

1. Ministers for our good

- civil authority is designed by God to promote and approve “the good work” (i.e. “moral” good)
- civil authority is designed by God to enable us to engage in good deeds, including the proclamation of the gospel

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

“Ministers of God”

2. Ministers for punishing evil

- God has designated to civil authorities legitimate force to punish “the evil” (moral evil)
- “sword” – refers generally to the punishment of evil doers; it most certainly includes capital punishment

⁵ Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man.

⁶ “Whoever sheds man's blood,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God
He made man.

(Genesis 9:5-6)

“Ministers of God”

➤ God-designed purposes of government:*

1. To render judgment for the sake of justice
2. To build platforms of peace, order and flourishing
3. To set the stage for redemption

*taken from *How the Nations Rage*; Jonathan Leeman © 2018