

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

How do “citizens of heaven” relate to civil government?

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)

Necessary Submission

A. Reasons for our Submission

1) “Because of wrath”

- we submit in order to avoid punishment, which is the execution of God’s wrath

Necessary Submission

A. Reasons for our Submission

1) “Because of wrath”

2) “Because of conscience”

- we submit because we know that God has instituted civil authorities for His divine purposes
- we know that civil authorities are “servants” of God for our good and the upholding of His law

Necessary Submission

B. Obligations of our Submission

- 1) Pay taxes – both direct (income, property) and indirect (goods, customs, fees)



TI CAESAR DIVI AVGVSTVS / PONTIF MAXIM

"Tiberius Caesar Augustus, son of the divine Augustus"

Pontifex Maximus = *"high priest"*

Necessary Submission

B. Obligations of our Submission

- 1) Pay taxes – both direct (income, property) and indirect (goods, customs, fees)
- 2) Fear and honor those in authority – they are servants of God

Necessary Submission

➤ Remaining Questions:

- What does subjection look like under our government?
- When is it right to disobey the governing authorities?
- How do we reconcile the command to not repay evil with the government's purpose of avenging evil?