

The Christian's Duty To Government (Rom 13:1-7)
07-16-17 PM

Day to day Christianity, sometimes called personal work, revolves around a series of relationship repeatedly addressed in Scriptures.

Passages	Alpha Role	Beta Role
Ephesians 5:22-6:9 Colossians 3:18-4:1 1 Peter 2:13-3:7	Husband	Wife
	Parents	Children
	Employers	Employees
	Government	Citizens/subjects

This last relationship is the subject of Romans 13, really beginning back in Romans 12:17. There are a number of ways that the Bible looks at government:

Matthew 22:16-22 - to render to the government its due

1 Timothy 2:1-4 – to pray for our leaders for the purpose of living peaceably, converting others

Titus 3:1 – to be subject for the sake of righteousness

1 Peter 2:13-15 – To be subject as the will of God

Here in Romans 13, as Paul looks at government, he reveals several things. First, all authority comes from God. Second, the purpose of government is to punish the evildoer. Finally, we submit for our conscience sake. This last point speaks to the fact that we have other relationships (marriage, parenting, work) that require and receive submission, and we cannot with a clear conscience receive that which we refuse to give. In Romans 13:7 Paul describes three characteristics: Paying Our Share; Obeying the Law; Honoring our King.

Taxes to whom taxes are due

Christians ought to be people who pay taxes religiously. It does not mean we cannot seek deductions, but that we pay what is fair. We may have apprehensions over the use of those funds, but we are not accountable for misused funds.

Fear to whom fear is due

From 1 Timothy 2 we saw that the purpose of obedience is so that we can live peaceably with all men (Romans 12:18). That goal achieves the result that some may be saved (1 Peter 2:21). Yet there may be a time when civil disobedience is warranted, as seen in Acts 5:29,

Honor to whom honor is due

We are to honor our leaders whether righteous or unrighteous. Paul was treated unrighteously in Acts 23:1-5, but confessed to sinning by saying something about the High Priest. We need to have a very cautious mind when we do bring criticism, as seen by John the Baptist (Matthew 14:3)

We need to see ourselves and our civic responsibilities similar to those of ambassadors from other nations (2 Corinthians 5:20, Ephesians 6:20). We need to see ourselves as citizens of heaven (Ephesians 2:19), and guests here (1 Peter 2:11-12). We are the Ambassadors of the Kingdom, and our conduct should reflect our King.