**God, Government, & You**

*Romans 13:1-7*

**Instructions**

* If you don’t have a Bible but you have a smartphone, you can download the Y-O-U Version Bible App. Once you download it, you can go to the “More” tab, tap “Events,” and find Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and you can see the Scripture, notes, quotes, and references. If you’re outside Habersham County, you may need to search for D-E-M-O-R-E-S-T, Georgia to find the church.

**Significance**

What is the relationship between God, government, and you? Should Christians protest, Christians pay taxes, respect all government officials, pledge allegiance? What is Christian’s civic duty? Should you put your faith in the government?

**Passage Background and Context Information**

The Apostle Paul is writing to Christians living in Rome. Nero was emperor, but he had not yet begun persecuting Christians.

**The Question**

What is the relationship between God, government, and you?

**Bible Verse**

###### Romans 13:1 (CSB)

1Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God.

**Transition**

What is the relationship between God and government?

**1. \_\_\_\_\_ put government in \_\_\_\_\_. (1b)**

**Bible Verse**

###### Romans 13:3-4 (CSB)

3For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval.

4For it is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For it is God’s servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong.

**2. Government should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. (3-4)**

**Transition**

So, what is your relationship to government?

**Bible Verse**

###### Romans 13:1-2,5-7 (CSB)

1Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God.

2So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God’s command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves.

5Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath but also because of your conscience.

6And for this reason you pay taxes, since the authorities are God’s servants, continually attending to these tasks.

7Pay your obligations to everyone: taxes to those you owe taxes, tolls to those you owe tolls, respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor.

**So what? \_\_\_\_\_\_ to government with qualified allegiance. (1a, 2, 5-7)**

* Exodus 22:1-3 1 “When a man steals an ox or a sheep and butchers it or sells it, he must repay five cattle for the ox or four sheep for the sheep. 2 If a thief is caught in the act of breaking in, and he is beaten to death, no one is guilty of bloodshed. 3 But if this happens after sunrise, the householder is guilty of bloodshed. A thief must make full restitution. If he is unable, he is to be sold because of his theft.

**Bible Verse**

###### Matthew 22:21 (CSB)

21“Caesar’s,” they said to him. Then he said to them, “Give, then, to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

**Bible Verse**

###### Acts 5:29 (CSB)

29Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than people.

**Should Christians protest?**

**Should Christians pay taxes?**

**Should Christians respect all government officials?**

**Should Christians pledge allegiance?**

**What is Christian’s civic duty?**

###### Jeremiah 29:7 (CSB)

7Pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the Lord on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive.”

**Pray**

“Jesus, I confess I am a sinner. I deserve Your judgment of death and hell. But I believe You love me, came down for me, lived a perfect life, and shed Your blood and died on the cross for my sins. I also believe that God raised You from the dead for the forgiveness of my sins, to change me, and grant me everlasting life. Please forgive me, help me, and give me eternal life. I believe You are my Forgiver and God. I give my life to love, obey, and make much of You! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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In Stephen Magee’s “A Book of Prayers:” Father God, thank You for the gift of civil authority structures that You have appointed in this world. Use them for Your good purposes in the restraint of evil and for the encouragement of good. May we rightly honor them, and joyfully follow them. We would cooperate with them as conscience permits, but may we not be distracted from seeking first Your kingdom and Your righteousness.

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