

Civil Government and The Individual Christian

Romans 13; I Pet. 2:13-17

The Role of Civil Government

- God has “ordained” the civil government (Rom. 13:1)
- “Ministers of God” (Rom. 13:4)
- “Avenger for wrath to him that doeth evil” (Rom. 13:4; I Pet. 2:14)
- Said office will give “praise” to the one who abides by their rule (Rom. 13:3; I Pet. 2:14).

The Christian's Role in Govt.

- Subjection
(Rom. 13:1, 5; I Pet. 2:13; Titus 3:1)
- Never “resist” the power (Rom. 13:2)
- Abide by law and pay taxes
(Matt. 22:15-22; Rom. 13:5-7)
- “Fear” (Rom. 13:7)
- “Honor” (Rom. 13:7; I Pet. 2:17)

A Distinction in Kingdoms

- Governments of the world are concerned with immediate life.
- God's government (kingdom) concerned with man's eternal welfare (i.e., it is spiritual) (cf. Jn. 18:36; Rom. 14:17; Eph. 2:19-22; Col. 1:13)

Concluding Thoughts

- The Christian is to make a proper distinction between the governments of men and God.
- The Christian will keep the laws of the land so long as those laws do not call upon us to violate God's Divine Law (cf. Acts 4:19; 5:29).
- The Christian is in subjection, honors, fears, and pays customs and taxes to the elected officials knowing that they are ordained of God as His ministers.
- The Christian realizes that this world is not his/her eternal home!