



Christian Life Fellowship
Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



Christian Relationship to Government

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Introduction:

Before I begin my message this morning, I want to encourage you to be educated as to where the candidates stand on issues and then go to the pole on Tuesday and vote. I hope when you vote, you will take into consideration your Biblical conscience. I would like to think that the change we need in Washington is to come back to Biblical Values. I believe God will take care of our economy and protect us from enemies that would like to destroy us. He will go to great extremes if we will seek Him and live according to the principles of His Word. If you are unsure as to where a candidate stands on Biblical issues, then please find out. There are voter guides listed on this website.....<http://www.focusvoter.com>

Let me say that we are now seeing all the elements for Biblical prophecy to come to pass put in place. The things that have been happening in our economy over the past six – eight weeks show us that the foundation for a global economy is being put into place. The next step will be to give everyone a mark and they will not be able to buy or sell without that mark. ([Romans 13:16](#) – the mark of the beast)

It also will be easy for someone to come on the scene and say, “I have the answer, I am the messiah. Trust me to give direction to all nations. Let’s work together for peace and prosperity.” When it happens, it will happen quickly. It is simply another indication that as believers we should be ready, looking and waiting for the promised returning of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. [Romans 13:1-14](#) - It is God who has established the institution of the home, the church and the government. Paul was writing to the believers at the very heart of the Roman Empire. The great persecution of the church had not yet started. But the day would come when those who followed Christ would not be able to be loyal both to Christ and the Emperor. A Christian would not be able to drop incense on the altar and affirm Caesar as god.

There are people today who advocate that the Christian thing to do is to disobey the law, rebel against authorities and permit every one to do the things that are right in their own eyes. Paul gives four reasons why the Christian must be in subjection to the laws of the state.

1. For wrath’s sake ([13:1-4](#))

The authority to rule comes from God. Those who will be elected on Tuesday do not get their authority to rule from people, but from God. We support them with our prayers, regardless of whether we voted for

them or not. God has established the governments of the world, and it was this lesson that Nebuchadnezzar had to learn the hard way.

To resist the law is to resist the God who established government in the world and this means inviting punishment.

Man has to have some type of authority over him. So God has established government because of this need. God has given the sword to rulers to punish and even execute. Even though we cannot always respect the man in office, we must respect the office for it is ordained of God.

Even though government officials at times are not believers, they are still the ministers of God because God has established the authority of the state.

Titus 3:1 Remind your people to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good.

On more than one occasion, Paul used the Roman law to protect his life and extend his work.

2. For conscience sake (13:5-7)

We move higher in our motivation now. Any citizen can obey the law because of fear of punishment but a Christian should obey the law because of conscience.

Paul writes in 1 **Tim. 2:1-2 I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them and give thanks. Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity.**

If it comes to the government interfering with conscience, the Christian must obey God rather than man. **ACT 5:29.** When the law is right, it is our duty to obey it if we are to preserve a good conscience. **Verse 7** Paul commands us to pay the taxes that we owe, revenue, respect and honor. If we don't pay our taxes, we show disrespect to the law, the officials and our Lord.

Matthew 22:19-20 - Jesus said, **"Show me the Roman coin used for the tax."** When they handed him the coin, he asked, **"Whose picture and title are stamped on it?"** "Caesar's," they replied. **"Well, then," he said, "give to Caesar what belongs to him. But everything that belongs to God must be given to God."**

We may not agree with all that is done with our taxes, but we do not dare to violate our conscience by refusing to pay them.

3. For love's sake (13:8-10)

Paul enlarges the circle of responsibility by including others besides government officials. "Love one another" is the basic principle of the Christian faith.

Without love, no matter what else we do, it is worthless. Read the 13th chapter of I Corinthians if you don't believe me. I can give, I can speak, I can do the miraculous, but without love, I am nothing and those things are unprofitable. Love is the new commandment that Christ gave to us. When we practice love, there really is no need for any laws. We will not sin against them. Because the basis of all the commandments is love, the New Testament does not refer to the Ten Commandments. As believers, we do not live under the law, but under God's grace. Our motive for obeying God and helping others is the love of Christ in our hearts.

The Bible does not forbid borrowing money or legal financial transactions that involve interest. It says to owe no man anything but love. The Bible forbids charging high interest and robbing a brother and also condemns failing to pay honest debt that we have incurred. Banking and investing for gain are not wrong. Certainly we should not incur unnecessary debt, but to make **Romans 13:8** apply to every legal kind of obligation involving money is a long stretch.

Paul has focused in on the very core of the problem – *man's heart*. Because the human heart is sinful, God established government. Laws cannot change our hearts which are selfish. Hearts and attitudes can only be changed by the grace of God.

4. For Jesus' sake (13:11-14)

We have come a long way in our reasons for obeying the law. We started out with fear, moved to conscience, to love, to our devotion to Christ.

There are hundreds of prophecies about Jesus' first coming that were fulfilled. There are many prophecies that have been made about Jesus coming again that will be fulfilled. Jesus is coming back. That has been promised by Christ Himself. At His returning, we want to be found faithful. We want to be ready. In view of Christ's return, Paul gives us

several things we are to do as we anticipate His coming. .

1. WAKE UP – [I Thess. 5:1-11](#)

2. CLEAN UP – We don't want soiled garments when Christ comes back – [I John 2:28-3:3](#) We are to put on the armor of light. We are not to be covered with deeds of darkness. We have no reason as followers of Christ to involve ourselves with the sinful pleasures of this world.

Conclusion:

We may not always agree on politics or parties, but we can all agree on our attitude toward human government.

3. GROW UP – [v. 14](#) – tells us that we are to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and that means to become more like Him, to receive by faith that entire portion that He has for our daily living.

In the natural, we grow by what we eat. This is why we are warned not to make provision for the flesh. If we feed only our flesh, we will fail, but if we also feed the inner man according to the nourishment that comes from God's word, then we will succeed.

