

## **What is the Purpose of Government?**

### **Reality Check, Pt. 7**

#### **Romans 13:1-7**

October 20, 2024

**Romans 13:1**, Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. **2** Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. **3** For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. **4** For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. **5** Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. **6** This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. **7** Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

**Philippians 3:20**, But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**Matthew 10:16**, "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."

### **What Does the Bible Say About Government?**

#### **1. God Is the Ultimate Source of AUTHORITY**

**Romans 13:1**, Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been

established by God. **2** Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

#### **2. Governments Should Protect the Innocent and Punish the GUILTY**

**Romans 13:3**, For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. **4** For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

**1 Peter 2:12**, Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. **13** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, **14** or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. **15** For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. **16** Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

### **How Then Should We Live?**

**Romans 13:5**, Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. **6** This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. **7** Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

- **Submit to the Government with a Clear CONSCIENCE**

**Romans 13:5**, Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

**Acts 5:29**, Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!"

**Daniel 3:16**, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. **17** If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. **18** But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

- **Pay Your TAXES**

**Romans 13:6**, This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

**Matthew 22:20**, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" **21** "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

- **Be Prayerful and RESPECTFUL**

**Romans 13:7**, Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

**1 Peter 2:17**, Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

**1 Timothy 2:1**, I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— **2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.