

The Civic Responsibility of God's People

November 7, 2020

We The People Of God, Pt. 3
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1 Peter 2:9, *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

1 Peter 2:11, *Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 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.*

Why Should God's People Submit To The Government?

o Every Authority Is ESTABLISHED BY GOD

1 Peter 2:13a, *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human 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.*

Proverbs 21:1, *The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He will.*

Job 12:23, *He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and disperses them.*

Psalms 22:28, *For dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations.*

o The Government Exists To ENFORCE RIGHT AND WRONG

1 Peter 2:13, *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.*

Romans 13:2, *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.*

o Our Submission Can Be OUR WITNESS

1 Peter 2:15, *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 Should God's People Submit To The Government?

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

o RESPECT AND LOVE OTHERS

Titus 3:1, *Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.*

o GIVE TO CAESAR WHAT IS CAESAR'S

Mark 12:17, *Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."*

Romans 13:6, *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.

Jeremiah 29:7, *Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*

o GIVE TO GOD WHAT IS GOD'S

Mark 12:13, *Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch Him in His words. 14 They came to Him and said, "Teacher, we know that You are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because You pay no attention to who they are; but You teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? 15 Should we pay or shouldn't we?" But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap Me?" He asked. "Bring me a denarius and let Me look at it." 16 They brought the coin, and He asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. 17 Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at Him.*

Acts 5:27, *The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this Man's blood." 29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!*

o PRAY, GIVE THANKS, AND PURSUE PEACE

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.*