

Good News
Conscientious Christian Citizenship

Brad McConnaughey // July 11, 2021
Romans 13:1-7

Big Idea: The Gospel is Good News that motivates believers to be exemplary citizens for the Lord's sake.

1. Followers of Jesus are to submit and obey all governing authorities.
(v. 1-5)

A. Because all governing authority has been established by God.
(v. 1-2, 5)

- (1) Essentially, all governing authority is divine authority.
- (2) All Governing authorities are God's servants.
- (3) Therefore, to rebel against the government is to rebel against God.
- (4) God designed government for our good.
- (5) We are to submit and obey to our authorities because of conscience.

*"Submit yourselves, for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right." **1 Peter 2:13-14***

B. Because failing to do so will result in punishment. (v. 2-4)

When people refuse to submit and obey the authorities they are actually rebelling against God and bringing civil and divine judgment on themselves.

2. Followers of Jesus are to pay taxes to support the government.
(v. 6-7)

Jesus said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."
Matthew 22:21

3. Followers of Jesus are to respect and honor our governing leaders and civil servants.

*“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.” **Philippians 2:14-16a***

How should citizens of heaven live as citizens of this world?

1. Submit to governing authorities, recognizing them as God’s servants fulfilling God’s purposes.
2. Pray for those in leadership.

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

3. Be a good citizen. Pay taxes. Obey the laws. Be respectful. Pour yourself into the needy. Serve your city.

*“Serve the king of Babylon and you will live... Also, 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.” **Jeremiah 27:17, 29:7***

4. Engage in the political process with truth and justice and the common good in mind.
5. Rest in the providence of God. Calm down. God is sovereign.
6. Give your ultimate allegiance to King Jesus.