

GOD, THE GOVERNMENT, AND ME

Romans 13:1-7

I. The Nature of Government

1. **Government is part of God's purpose (vv. 1-2)**
2. **Government leaders are servants of God (vv. 3-4)**
Woe to those who enact evil statutes And to those who constantly record unjust decisions, 2 So as to deprive the needy of justice And rob the poor of My people of their rights, So that widows may be their spoil And that they may plunder the orphans. 3 Now what will you do in the day of punishment, And in the devastation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your wealth? Isaiah 10:1-3

II. The Purposes of Government

1. **To protect** _____
Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man Genesis 9:6
2. **To protect** _____ and _____ rights
"You shall not commit adultery. 15 "You shall not steal. 16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor." Exodus 20:14-17
3. **To handle** _____ between people
But how can I bear your problems and your burdens and your disputes all by myself? 13 Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you." Deuteronomy 1:12-13
4. **To** _____ (v. _____)

III. Our Responsibility and Relationship to Government

1. I have a _____
For our citizenship is in heaven, Philipians 3:20
"Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ...render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Luke 20:22-25
2. My _____ obedience is to God
But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19-20
3. I am to obey the law _____
Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, Titus 3:1

4 REASONS:

- God _____ the authority (Romans 13:1)
 - for my _____ (Romans 13:3-4)
 - to maintain a _____ (Romans 13:5)
 - to maintain a _____ (1 Peter 2:13-15)
Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. 1 Peter 2:13-15
4. Pray for our _____
First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 1 Timothy 2:1-2
5. I am to _____ (Romans 13:6-7)
 6. Christians are to influence the government _____