

**The Christian and Government**  
**Romans 13:1-7**  
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the Christian's responsibility to the Government.

- Intro:
1. There are many controversies surrounding government agencies, leaders and law enforcement in general.
  2. God's Word gives us clear reminders about what God expects from the Christian.

I. The Text (Romans 13:1-7)

A. God's Command (**Rom 13:1**)

1. Higher Powers, governing authorities - governments
2. **"Subject" – the same word that is used for wives being subject to husbands (Eph 5:22) and the church being subject to Christ (Eph 5:24)**
  - a. Consider **Titus 3:1**
3. Poor governments or leaders does not mean we do not obey the law, unless it disagrees with God's word (**Acts 4:18-20, Acts 5:29**)

B. Warnings & Purpose of Government (**Rom 13:2**)

1. To not obey the law is to break the commandment of God and therefore sin

C. The Simple Reality (*Rom 13:3-6*)

1. The Righteous do not fear government, only the wicked (**Rom 13:3-4, 1 Pt 2:14**)
  - a. The "sword" may be a reference to capital punishment, it at least is a symbol of authority.
2. An additional reason to give to be in subject, not just to avoid the wrath of punishment, but for your conscience sake (**v.5**).
  - a. Those with a clear conscience have no need to fear the authorities.
3. We sometimes say "That's why we pay taxes", that's basically the idea here.
  - a. These men receive payment from such and also collect such. (**v.6**).
  - b. Authorities vehicles sometimes include the words "To serve and to Protect" and this is true.

D. Rendering what is due (**v.7**)

a. **Christians pay what is due...**

1. **Pay Tribute (or Taxes) that is due**
2. **Pay Custom (taxes on imports or trade) that is due**
3. **Pay fear that is due**
4. **Pay honor that is due**

II. The Christian and the law of the land

A. We must caution others of ungodly laws of the land

1. We must remember God's law, especially those surrounding morality are always best.
2. Man falters on morality (**Jer 10:23**)

B. God's law will keep us from wickedness and the desire to follow ungodly laws/"rights" of the land.

1. Man's law may seem right to some, especially to wicked men, but because it can differ from God's law, it can lead to death (**Pro 14:12**)

2. There is no doubt that man's law often stands in opposition to God's law.
  - a. Wherever the Christian can, he obeys the laws of the land (**Rom 13:1**)

### III. Lessons for Us Today

- A. Man's shortcomings does not give man the right not to obey the law of the land.
  1. Man's government is not perfect this is no reason to disobey God's law concerning man's subjection to governing authorities.
  2. The shortcomings of leaders and their failures does not give man the right to disobey God (**Rom 13:5**)
- B. Our desire should be to please to God
  1. To please God includes obeying our governing laws.
  2. God put these things in place thus they are for the best of mankind (**Rom 13:6b**).

### Application & Conclusion:

1. The Christian becomes a smaller target when he obeys the laws of the land whenever he can with God's approval.
2. Let us therefore please God by fulfilling His will for us regarding the authorities, be in subjection to them.
3. Full Invitation

### Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

### Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9