

“The Christian and Government:  
Governing to the Glory of God” (Part 2)  
Romans 13:1-7

- *Principal #1:* God has given us earthly authority to restrain sin, because we all have a submission issue, and to represent God in judging and punishing sin for the safety and blessing of all mankind for God’s glory (Self-governance, Familial/Vocational, Church, and Traditional Government).
- *Principal #2:* God hates when men use their God-given authority to do evil and not upkeep their responsibilities in protecting and promoting what is good and punishing what is evil.
- *Principal #3:* All authority is accountable to Christ and will be judged by Christ on whether they submitted to His authority in their realms of governance. They will be judged/punished for their abuse of their God-given authority and should be called to repentance when abusing their authority.
- *Principal #4:* We are bound to obey Christ in all things and to have our consciences bound to nothing, and our allegiances given to nothing *but Christ and His Word*. We should be willing to suffer the consequences of any suffering that comes on account of this good action.
- *Principal #5:* Proper governance is not what saves mankind, but it is an evidence of the goodness and the grace of God and for the believer it is an evidence of their salvation. Even evil governance has a purpose in God’s economy (judgment or evidence of absolute truth) and will be used for the good of the believer.
- *Principal #6:* Now that someone is saved, they are forgiven and in right standing with God, that is: they are justified with God and that cannot be changed. This new position in Christ does not give the Christian the right to disregard earthly authority and to break the law or disobey godly authority or sin because they are saved. Instead they ought to be a model citizen, parent/spouse, congregant/elder, and individual, in the context of doing what is good and hating what is evil, because they in Christ have the ability to live righteous lives. That is Christians should self-govern, familial/vocationally govern, Church govern, and obey Government in a way and for a reason that the world cannot (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:16; Romans 13:9-10; Romans 6:12-13).
- *Principal #7:* To properly submit (to glorify God) to authority and to properly lead with authority you must have a love for and a fear of God (Proverbs 8:13-17; Matthew 10:28; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Psalm 2:10-12).
- Church Governance: “*Set the example of proper self and familial governance for the body of Christ.*”
  - *Submission:* God has given the church, as a love gift, Elders to govern His Church (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9) by preaching the whole counsel of God and protecting them from false teaching (Acts 20:27-30), and being an example of holiness in word and practice (Hebrews 13:7; 1 Timothy 3:1-7). The Church is called to submit to their Elders by imitating their biblical example and by obeying Biblical teaching (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).
  - *Discipline/Punishment:* The Elders have the responsibility to patiently, gracefully, and biblically address sin within the community (Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13). The Elders also have the responsibility to gently restore the repentant sinner back into the community of believers (Galatians 6:1; 2 Corinthians 2:6-8).
  - *Consequences:* The refusal to submit to eldership and to address sin within the community can lead to divisions within the church (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3), jealousy, selfishness, and strife within the church (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; James 3:13-18), and a lack of seriousness about the devastating effects of sin (Galatians 5:13-16; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 1 Thessalonians 3:13-15). The local church has the responsibility and privilege of joining its fellow members in the process of sanctification (Matthew 18:15-18; Hebrews 3:12-14; James 5:16).

(continued →)

**Worship:** There Is a Fountain (Citizens)

Christ The Sure and Steady Anchor (Matt Boswell)

Grace Alone (Kings Kaleidoscope)

**Closing Song:** Christ Is Mine Forevermore (City Alight)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- *Payment/Honor*: We show honor to our Elders by praying for them and encouraging them (1 Thessalonians 5:11), obeying the Word of God (Hebrews 13:7 & 17), practicing humility (1 Peter 5:5), and by financially supporting them to do the work of ministry (1 Corinthians 9:14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- *Traditional Government*: “Rule justly over men in the fear of God.”
  - *Submission*: Every person has the biblical responsibility to submit to the Governing authorities that God has placed over them as long as the Government does not command us to do evil and does not step out of their sphere of authority. That is, that they enter into the other areas of governance and try to take authority to control what they have not been given jurisdiction to control.
  - How do we resist Government abuse for the glory of God?
    - God’s people should be known as submissive people. We should submit in every reasonable way possible to reasonable governance. Our submission is always for the sake of Christ, that is for His glory and for joyful obedience (1 Peter 2:13-15).
    - Christians should pray for wicked rulers and share the gospel and the truth of God’s Word with wicked rulers in the hope that they would be saved and there would be no hindrance to the spreading of the gospel (1 Timothy 2:1-4).
    - God’s people should be known for their good works, so when they have to resist the government, there is no legitimacy to the claims of them doing evil (1 Peter 2:12 & 15; Acts 8:54-60).
    - The Christian should be consistent in calling evil, evil and good, good with no prejudice or partiality (2 Timothy 2:24-25; Acts 5:29-33).
    - The Christian should not be hesitant to take a stand on black and white issues because of the actions of nominal Christians who misrepresent Christ (Acts 28:22-24).
    - *Issues of prudence* (the God given ability to govern oneself by the use of reason/rational or to have caution because of danger or risk). We cannot and should not decide for people/believers what they should or should not do in judgments of prudence (no biblical obligation). Different believers might decide to do different things in the same circumstances (Romans 14:1-23).
      - Evaluate the Word of God and seek counsel.
      - Ask God to search your heart and reveal any sinful tendencies that are governing your conscience.
      - Do your own, unbiased, research and be fully convinced of your decision.
      - Remember you will stand in judgment for your decision.
      - Stay kingdom minded: salvation and sanctification.

### **Announcements:**

- CHILDREN’S MINISTRY MEETING: If you currently serve in or are interested in/have questions about serving in the Children’s Ministry, please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 17th! We will be having a Children’s Ministry worker’s meeting immediately following the worship service on that Sunday!
- FELLOWSHIP DINNER: We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay and enjoy dinner and fellowship with us!
- PARENTS’ NIGHT OUT: On Friday, October 22nd, from 6-8pm, we are offering free child care, giving the parents a chance to enjoy an evening alone while their children are well cared for by responsible adults who love and care for them! Child care will be provided at the Davis residence (632 Mill Race Road). There is a sign-up list on the back table for those parents who would be interested in taking advantage of this Parents’ Night Out!
- PASTOR APPRECIATION: For the remainder of September and throughout the month of October we will be collecting a special offering for the Pastoral Staff for Pastor Appreciation Month. If you would like to give to that, please put your donation into an offering envelope (on the side of the offering box) and mark on the outside of the envelope: “Pastoral Staff Appreciation” OR give your donation on Venmo, making sure to note it is for the “Pastoral Staff Appreciation.”
- COMMUNION: We will be partaking of Communion together NEXT Sunday, October 3rd.