

Romans

(44) A Living Sacrifice and Secular Government

Our special responsibility to God's government...Rom.13:1-7

What is the *command* to everyone regarding civil authority? vs.1a IPet.2:13-18; Titus 3:1-2

Everyone must submit to the governing authority. Not just the ones we like.

And what is the fundamental truth behind this command? vs.1b Dan.4:28-37

There is absolutely NO authority that has not been directly established by God!

When anyone rebels against the authority, what's really happening? vs.2 Ex.16:8; ISam.8:4-8

The rebellion is really against God. This invites God's judgment on the rebel...

On the positive side, what is a believer to be doing? ITim.2:1-3 Why? vs.3 ; Phil.3:20

We are to be praying for our government. It's His will for us. A higher citizenship!

What is the only 'sanctioned' point of disobedience? Dan.1:12-15; 3:16-18; Acts 4:18-20;5:28-29

When government demands that we disobey God's direct commandments.

What is to be our attitude when we have to disobey authority? Dan.1:12-15

Respectful and mindful of the Lord. Do not bring reproach on the name of the Lord.

What is the fundamental authority given by God to governments? vs.3-4 Prov.20:2

It is to bear the sword, punishment of wrongdoer. Basic restraint of lawlessness.

What point does Paul make about our conduct re authority? vs.3 IPet.3:13-14

Do what is right and, as a rule, you have no fear of authority. But do right either way!

And what is the ultimate reason for submission to authority? vs.5 IPet.2:13

Believers know they are submitting to God. It's His authority passed down. Conscience...

Now, about those taxes...Rom.13:6-14

What does Paul mean "*this is also why you pay taxes*"? vs.6

The also refers back to verse 5, submit because 1. punishment 2. conscience (toward God)

Suppose the taxes are unfair, used for objectionable things, etc? vs.7

Pay your required taxes. Pay your required revenue. Do it for conscience sake.

But does our submission to government stop at (grudgingly) paying our taxes? vs.7 Lev.19:32

No. If we owe them respect, give it. If honor, give it. Out of respect/honor to God.

What should be our only outstanding debt? vs.8 Why? vs.9-10 Gal.5:14; James 2:8

Love your neighbor as yourself. That fulfills the whole law. We need help with this!

What major point is made in verses 11-12? IPet.4:7; Rev.22:12

Wake up! Time is short. Christ will soon return. Put aside the old, put on the new!

How will this look for a living sacrifice? vs.13-14 Eph.5:3-4; Col.3:5; IThess.4:1-8

No orgies, drunkenness, sexual immorality, debauchery, fights, jealousy. The do not's.

What are these things replaced with for a living sacrifice? vs.14; Gal.5:16-17; IPet.2:11

We're to be clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ. Forget gratification of the sinful nature.