

ROMANS 13:1-7

# Getting Along with the Government

**I. The government is an authority \_\_\_\_\_ by God.**

*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed ... v. 1-2a*

**II. The government is an instrument \_\_\_\_\_ by God.**

*... and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. vv. 2b-4*

**III. The government is a servant \_\_\_\_\_ to God.**

*Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. vv. 5-7*

To Get Along with the Government ... be a \_\_\_\_\_ citizen.

Submit your \_\_\_\_\_ to a sovereign King as a kingdom citizen.

Submit your \_\_\_\_\_ to God-ordained authorities as a law-abiding citizen.

Submit your \_\_\_\_\_ to Spirit-led conduct as a dual citizen.

*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ ... Philippians 3:20*

In Light of  
Christ

Although both the state and the law are divine institutions, they are provisional structures, which one day will cease. That day is steadily approaching. Our calling is to live in the light of it, to behave in the continuing night as if the day had dawned, to enjoy the 'now already' of the inaugurated kingdom in the certain knowledge that what is still 'not yet,' namely the consummated kingdom, will soon arrive."

**JOHN STOTT**

"Creating laws, tweaking laws or removing laws will never solve the problem of sin. We are all infected with sin and inherently greedy (Matt 6:19-24; Lk 12:15; Eph 5:5; 1 Tim 6:9-10; Heb 13:5). Government cannot cure it. ... True change is only possible through Jesus Christ (Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12). The only reform that will truly impact our society is the reformation of people becoming new creations (2 Cor 5:17) and having our minds transformed (Rom 12:1-2)."

**S. MICHAEL HOUDMANN**

"There is no authority which is not allotted its place by God, for the authorities which exist have been set in their places by God. So he who sets himself up against authority has really set himself up against God's arrangement of things."

**WILLIAM BARCLAY**

"It's important to affirm that we cannot extend the redemptive rule of God over non-Christians. Of course we can show the unbelieving world something of what the kingdom is and will be; we can testify and witness to its existence and its character. But because the kingdom is a matter of relationship between the King and his subjects, we cannot extend the kingdom of God over people who will not submit to the King's rule. It is through faith in the King that someone is transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the Son (Col 1:13)."

**KEVIN DEYOUNG and GREG GILBERT**

"Romans 13:7 commands us to pay what we owe: taxes, revenue, respect, honor. If we do not pay our taxes, we show disrespect to the law, the officials and the Lord. And this cannot but affect the conscience of the believer. We may not agree with all that is done with the money we pay in taxes, but we dare not violate our conscience by refusing to pay."

**WARREN WIERSBE**

*In Light of Christ* HOME GROUP STUDY AND DEVOTIONAL

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Romans 13:1-7. Why should Christians be subject to governing authorities?

2. Even an unjust ruler is "God's servant for your good" (v. 4). How do cruel rulers like Moses' pharaoh (Ex 4:18-14:31; Rom 9:17), Pontius Pilate (Jn 19:8-16) and Paul's emperor (Nero, who put Christians to death) serve God's plan and do us good?

3. Verses 6-7 say that we are to pay our debts. According to these verses, what might we owe the government? In addition, to who else might you personally owe ...

- taxes and revenue?
- respect (literally *fear*; see 1 Pet 2:17)?
- honor (see Eph 6:1-3; 1 Pet 2:17)?
- other debts?

4. How does Luke 20:20-26 shed light on Romans 13:7?

5. Read John 18:1-19:16.

How did Jesus react when Peter tried to fight the authorities?

Where does Jesus say Pilate's authority comes from? Why did Jesus submit to the government, even though it had no power over Him and ultimately killed Him?

6. How does your response to authority impact the way others view your faith?

7. Consider the people who govern in your life. How do they do you good (v. 4)? Over the next week, pray for one person each day who works for the government, from top officials to first responders and office workers.

**GO DEEPER**

Study Paul's submission to authorities in ...

- Acts 16:16-40
- Acts 18:12-18
- Acts 21:27-26:32
- Acts 28:17-31

**A WONDERFUL OFFER**

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

**COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL**

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/events](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/events).



**LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD?** Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** Our upcoming Christmas Cantata is a breathtaking musical experience and one of our favorite ways to launch the Christmas celebration here at Christ Chapel! During this special event, we all can expect an incredibly talented orchestra and choir to perform musical pieces that ring in the celebration and point our attention to the majesty and glory of Jesus. Various times are available for you to join in on both Saturday and Sunday. RSVP today at [www.ccbcfamily.org/cantata](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/cantata).

**TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry that sends Christmas gifts and the gospel message to children in need around the world every year — and by dropping off your shoebox today you're giving a child the joy of opening a gift on Christmas morning! Make sure to drop your shoebox off at the designated location at your campus.

**HSM ASCENT** Pumped doesn't begin to express how excited our student ministry staff is to launch Ascent! This weekend event is designed for our high schoolers to engage in conversation around culturally relevant topics so they can discover what God says about their lives, choices and identity. If you're a high school student, you'll want to learn more about this upcoming opportunity! Check out the details at [www.ccbcfamily.org/ascent](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/ascent).

**THE GREEN ROOM IS BACK** The BE series was an encouragement to all of us — which meant we had to have a conversation about it in the Green Room! Grab a seat, grab a friend and sit down to enjoy a behind the scenes conversation with Cody, Misty, Ben and Brooke. Watch it now at [www.ccbcfamily.org/greenroom](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/greenroom).

**DATING, ENGAGED OR NEWLY MARRIED?**

Your relationship has the potential to speak to more than your love for one another — it can speak of Jesus. Here at Christ Chapel, we have opportunities for you to discover what it means for God's will and Word to influence love, dating and marriage by being a part of AVENEW. Learn more by visiting [www.ccbcfamily.org/avenew](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/avenew).



**IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE** The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.