



# THE LAWS OF THE LAND

## "The Believer's Secular Duty"

"Christians and Government" Romans 13:1-7

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1046.  
In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.  
Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com



A. Our passage today, like the Preamble of the US Constitution, states that the three purposes of government are to:

1. Protect the people.
2. Punish wrongdoers (this is how we ensure domestic tranquility).
3. Promote justice.

B. Here is what the Bible teaches about our world's past, its present and its future:

1. God created the world perfectly.
2. Sin corrupted the world completely.
3. God controls the world totally.

C. There are three institutions that have been ordained by God in this world to help us cope in these 'last days.' There are levels of submission and authority in each of them:

1. The Family
2. The Church
3. The Government

**Romans 13:1-7, TLB** -<sup>1</sup> Obey the government, for God is the one who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. <sup>2</sup> So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow. <sup>3</sup> For the policeman does not frighten people who are doing right; but those doing evil will always fear him. So if you don't want to be afraid, keep the laws and you will get along well. <sup>4</sup> The policeman is sent by God to help you. But if you are doing something wrong, of course you should be afraid, for he will have you punished. He is sent by God for that very purpose. <sup>5</sup> Obey the laws, then, for two reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you know you should. <sup>6</sup> Pay your taxes too, for these same two reasons. For government workers need to be paid so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you. <sup>7</sup> Pay everyone whatever he ought to have: pay your taxes and import duties gladly, obey those over you, and give honor and respect to all those to whom it is due.

# "The Christian and Government--How are We to Relate?"

Romans 13:1-7

## 1. Here's what we are to do:

A. We are to submit ourselves to governing authorities. (Obey the laws)

**Romans 13:1, HCSB** -<sup>1</sup> Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God.

B. We are to pay our taxes.

**Romans 13:6-7a, HCSB** -<sup>6</sup> And for this reason you pay taxes, since the authorities are God's public servants, continually attending to these tasks. <sup>7</sup> Pay your obligations to everyone: taxes to those you owe taxes, tolls to those you owe tolls...

C. We are to give honor and respect to all those whom it is due.

**Romans 13:7b, HCSB** -<sup>7</sup> ... respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor.

## 2. Here's why we are to do it:

A. Because of the power behind the Throne.

**Romans 13:2, HCSB** -<sup>2</sup> So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves.

B. Because of the punishment from the Throne.

**Romans 13:3-5, HCSB** -<sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval. <sup>4</sup> For government is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For government is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of your conscience.

### Life Application Section

#### The Christian and Government—in light of *all* Scripture (partial list):

- A. There is a difference between the "individual" and the "government."
- B. Be subject to the government, unless it asks you to disobey God. (Rom. 13:1, Acts 5:29, and 1 Peter 2:13-14)
- C. We need to know our Scriptures and our founding documents/history.
- D. Pray for our political leaders. (1 Tim. 2:1-2; Luke 4:6-8)
- E. Vote / Engage the cultural and political process. (Deut. 1:13, Titus 3:1-11)
- F. State your views as a citizen of "another kingdom" [We cannot remain silent]. (Phil. 3:20-21)
- G. Explain to your children the Biblical basis of your ethical convictions. (Prov. 22:6)