

THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO HUMAN GOVERNMENT

(Romans 13:4-7)

VII. GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED THRU THE CHURCH (12:1-16:23)

A. The Christian's Responsibility to Our Governing Authorities (13:1-2)

1. This happens to be the longest passage in the New Testament about _____ to the governing authorities, and the verb "be subject" (Gk. *hupotasso*) is the _____ verb to the whole passage. (v. 1)

2. The reason that these governing authorities even _____ in the first place, is because God has not only _____ them (v. 1b), but He also _____ them (v. 2).

B. The Role that Government Plays in the Life of the Believer (13:3-4)

1. Human government exists for the purpose of _____ the _____ and _____ the _____. (v. 3)

2. As Bible-believing Christians, and law-abiding citizens, we ought to view our government as a "_____" thing, even as God's "_____". (v. 4a)

3. If one chooses to commit capital crimes, the government has the authority from God to use the "_____" (Gk. *manchaira*), which is a reference to _____. (v. 4b)

* Isn't this optional for each individual government? (Gen. 9:6)

4. Some might claim that this is inconsistent with the sixth commandment; but Scripturally there are three justifiable reasons for taking another person's life.
 - a. _____ defense (Ex. 22:2-3; Esther 9; Luke 22:36)
 - b. _____ defense (Deut. 20:10-12; Neh. 4:17-18)
 - c. _____ punishment (Gen. 9:5-6; Lev. 24:21; Luke 23:40-41; Acts 25:11, 25)

* Isn't all of this inconsistent with being Pro-life?

C. The Responsibilities of the Believer towards God's Established Government (5-7)

1. The Christian is to be _____ (Gk. *hupotasso*) to the civil authorities not only to avoid punishment, but also for one's own _____ sake before the Lord (v. 5, cf. 1 Pet. 2:13-15).
2. Jesus said, "*Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.*" (Matt. 22:21); likewise, Paul is teaching that God wants believers to _____ the government by _____. (v. 6)

* But what if the taxes are also used to support things that are unscriptural?

3. The Lord also desires that Christians would show _____ and _____ towards those in government. (v. 7)

* Are you willing to make application with this passage in your own life?