

"The Bible, Government, and the Election"
Rom. 13:1-7

Nov 8th America will decide who will be president for at least the next four years. So I thought I would refresh our memories about what the Bible says about the role between the government and its citizens.

A few thoughts before we get started:

1. Christians have a higher king and kingdom we answer to, yet we are to be model citizens to the government God has placed over us.

2. We will see what concerns should motivate our choice in the polling booth, but we need to know we are not electing a Pastor but a President!

TT- In chapter 12 Paul begins to flesh out the great doctrines he wrote about in the first 11 chapters. In Romans 13:1-7 we see that God has granted four powers to the institution of government:

I. Government is Ordained by God (13:1-2).

1. v. 1a- We are to be in subjection to governing authorities.

"Subjection" includes obedience but also the attitude and spirit that lead to obedience. Christians should have spirit of subjection to the God-ordained authorities- God, church, government, home, and workplace.

"Higher powers" are those that govern us politically and civilly.

Titus 3:1, "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work."

1 Timothy 2:1-2, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

2. There are exceptions outlined in the Bible. Obedience to God supersedes obedience to the government.

Ex. 1:15-17- The Hebrew mid-wives refused to obey the King's command to kill the male children.

Dan. 3:16-18- Daniel and his 3 friends refused to bow to the image of gold.

Acts 4:19-20- The apostles refused to stop preaching Jesus when the Sanhedrin commanded them.

3. v. 1b- The higher powers are ordained [ordered] of God.

All human authority is delegated to men by God. Every form of government has been ordained [ordered] by God.

God established human government after the flood when He decreed, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed" (Gen. 9:6).

That decree gave authority to men to judge criminal matters and to punish offenders.

I. Government is Ordained by God (13:1-2).

II. Government is to Promote Good (13:3).

Our government is to promote life, protect property, and the general welfare of its citizens. Our government is to provide for our national security and national sovereignty.

Our government should not be in the business of abortion, restricting religious liberties, and having the SCOTUS should making law rather than interpreting law.

Psa 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Pro 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

III. Government is to Punish Evil (13:4-5).

The government is to bear the sword as the avenger of God to punish those who practice evil.

The sword speaks of capital punishment. This is the way the first readers would have understood it as well [Gen. 9:6; Matt. 26:52; Acts 25:11].

As ministers of God [v. 4], the government's divine authority is to punish evil, and protect life and property.

I. Government is Ordained by God (13:1-2).

II. Government is to Promote Good (13:3).

III. Government is to Punish Evil (13:4-5).

IV. Government is to Collect Taxes (13:7-8).

Out of our subjection the government, they have the right to collect taxes, tolls, customs and tariffs on goods.

Matthew 22:17-21, "Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? show me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's.

Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

Con: What should drive the Christians vote? We are different from the lost, so our vote should reflect the kingdom perspectives.

1. Which candidate will protect life in the womb and out of the womb? The unborn, the elderly, and the disabled. Which candidate would the unborn support? "Unborn lives matter"

2. Which candidate will uphold traditional Biblical marriage?

3. Which candidate is a friend of Israel?

4. Which candidate upholds religious liberty?

I am a constitutional conservative.

5. Which candidate will uphold the 2nd Amendment?

6. Which candidate has a strict originalist view of the constitution? Do they want the constitution interpreted as the founders meant it, or do they believe the constitution is a living document to be changed by the changing culture? Who would they appoint to the SCOTUS?

7. Small government, strong defense, and law and order.

We vote, but we must remember God's sovereignty when it comes to leaders and nations...

Pro 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.