

# What We Owe as Earthly Citizens

## Romans 13:1-10

### Introductory Thoughts

#### I. What did Early Christians Owe Rome?

#### II. We Owe the Government -- Submission v. 1-2, 5

A. Paul calls on us to “submit” to governing authorities, not to render “Absolute Obedience”.

B. Times when we are not to Submit.

Acts 4:18-20; 4:23-31

Acts 5:27-32 – We must obey God rather than man.

C. How Can Paul Make such Strong Statements? v. 1b-3

Because the authority flows from God.

Because GOD is the one who sets up kings and takes them down.

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar – “the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will (Dan. 4:17)

God holds those in authority responsible for their actions.

Governmental leaders will answer to Him

Every despot is eventually overthrown.

**1 Peter 2:13-14** -- Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup>or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

**1 Peter 3:13-17** -- Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

### **III. What Government Owes Us v. 3-4**

#### **A. The Roles Government **May** Fill**

#### **B. The Role Government **Must** Fill**

Governments must protect their citizens.

This means having a police force to deal with evil-doers.

This means having an army to protect the country.

Protection is what government is best suited to do – and it is the God-ordained role given to government. Everything else is up for debate.

1. When government refuses to punish lawbreakers it sends the message that there are no consequences for sin.
2. When government properly punishes evil-doers, it becomes a terror to those who do evil and pictures the judgment of God that will rest on those who break God's law.
3. Rulers must not call good evil OR evil good (Romans 1:18-32)

### **IV. What we Owe our Nation and our Leaders v. 6-7**

A. Taxes (direct and Indirect)

B. Reverence (fear) and respect (honor)

C. Prayer -- I Timothy 2:1-3

### **V. What we Owe to Everyone v. 8-10**