

God and Government

Romans 13:1-7

During a time of political turmoil and hatred for the state, Paul wrote to the Roman believers about God and government. Paul penned the clearest and most specific Bible teaching on the Christian's response to and responsibility toward civil authority.

- I. The Precept: _____ to authority (1a)
- II. The Principles:
 - A. Government exists by divine _____ (1b)
 - B. Resistance to government is _____ against God (2a).
 - C. Those who resist will be _____ (2b).
 - D. Government serves to _____ evil (3a)
 - E. Government serves to _____ good (3b-4a)
 - F. God _____ government to punish evil (4b)
- III. The Particulars:
 - A. _____ (6-7)
 - B. _____ (7)

The institution of civil government is a dispensation of mercy, and its existence is so indispensable, that the moment it ceases under one form, it reestablishes itself in another. The world, ever since the fall, when the dominion of one part of the human race over another was immediately introduced (Gen. 3:16), has been in such a state of corruption and depravity, that without the powerful obstacle presented by civil government to the selfish and malignant passions of men, it would be better to live among the beasts of the forest than in human society. As soon as its restraints are removed, man shows himself in his real character. When there was no king in Israel, and every man did that which was right in his own eyes, we see in the last three chapters of the Book of Judges what were the dreadful consequences.

- Robert Haldane

What must not be lost sight of is that, unpleasant as is the task of the jailer and the use of the whip, the cell, the noose, the guillotine, these things stand behind the stability of civilized society, and they stand there necessarily, for God has declared it so, in harmony with reality, rather than with apostate sociological opinion. Government, with its coercive powers, is a social necessity, but one determined by the Creator, not by the statistical tables of some university social research staff! No society can successfully vote fines, imprisonment, corporal and capital punishment away permanently. The society which tries has lost touch with realities of man (his fallen sinful state), realities of the world, and the truth of divine revelation in nature, man's conscience, and the Bible.

- Robert Culver