

Romans 13:1-7, pt. 4

Christian Response to State

KSN [law, good / avenge, harm, trick]

A) Our Basic Stance: Submit

B) Biblical Duty of the State: Maintain an Orderly Society (1 Tim 2:1-4)

BY restraining the worst evils of men (1 Pet 2:13-14)

THRU use of laws & punishments (Daniel 4:17, Gen 9:6,) THAT ARE public and equitable (Deut 17, v. 2-7)

C) God-Given Rights / Privileges of the State:

1. Authority (Rom 13:1-2, 1 Pet 2:13-14)
2. Sword (Gen 9:1-7, Rom 13:2-4)
3. Conscription (Matt 22:21, Rom 13:6-7)
4. Self-Protection (Rom 13:3-5)

Wisdom (Psa 2:10-12, Prov 8:14-21)
 Accountability (Isa 10:1-4, Rom 2:14-16)
 Over-Ruled (Prov 21:1, Jer 27:5-8)

D) Christian Response to God's Servant (the State):

- 1. <u>Honor</u>: Respect the State's God-assigned position of authority as an expression of a greater submission to God (Rom 13:1-7, 1 Pet 2:13-17, Acts 5:29)
- 2. <u>Obey</u>: Abide by the State's laws *wherever possible* as an expression of your acceptance of God's Providence in the exact manifestations of governing authority in your life (1 Pet 2:13-25, Rom 13:1-4; see also Hos 13:11, Jer 27:5-8, 29:7, 1 Sam 16:1, 1 Kgs 12;15, Prov 28:2, Isa 3:4-7)
- 3. Respectfully Disregard : Reckon the relative unimportance of the State to our fulfilling of Christ's Mission on earth (Matt 22:21, 28:18-20, Luke 24:45-49, Acts 1:6-8, John 18:36, 19:8-11, Acts 4:19, 5:29, Phil 1:12-20, 3:17-21, 2 Tim 2:8-13)
- 4. <u>Inform</u>: Boldly Inform the State of God's purpose and standards for governance (1 Sam 12:23-25, Prov 10:21, 11:14, 12:26, 16:13, 24:23-26, 2 Kgs 17:13, Ezra 6:14, Jer 7:25, Ezek 34:1-10, Luke 3:12-14, Mark 6:17-20, 13:9-11, John 18:19-24, Acts 16:36-40, 23:3, 24:25, 1 Pet 2:9)
- 5. Lovingly and patiently pick up the pieces of the lives shattered (even our own) by the State's neglect of their duty or willful abuse of their authority (Isa 1:17, Ezek 34:11-16, Rom 12:20-21, Titus 3:1-2, James 1:27)
- End of the state is unjust use of authority. It is permissible to respectfully use moral and legal means to curb or escape the effects of their evil, even knowing the blessedness of remaining faithful under persecution while we wait for the return of King Jesus (Prov 24:21-22, Matt 5:10-12, 26:51-54, John 18:10-11, Acts 17:10,14, 24:18-21, 25:7-12, Rom 12:17-21, 1 Thes 1:10, 1 Pet 2:21-25, 4:15-19, Rev 2:9-10)
- 7. _____: Intercede for the salvation of State's officials and that through them we might have a peaceful and quiet society in which to seek for the salvation of all men (1 Tim 2:1-8, 2 Thes 3:1-2, 1 Sam 12:23)

1. If State makes a law you deem unwise... 2. If a State Official disobeys the law of a superior Government Authority... 3. If State oversteps their bounds to legislate outside of their God-given authority... 4. If State itself violates God's moral standards by action or legislation... 5. If State commands you to sin...

E) Particularly Difficult Applications: You Make the Call!

Praxis

- 1. Consider someone that has been profoundly affected by the State's neglect of duty or abuse of rights? How could you practically "overcome that evil with good" for that person? What will it cost you? Why do you even have to think about this? (Phil 2:1-8)
- 2. If Civil Disobedience is not an option for how to change an unjust or immoral law, what are some effective means of seeking better governance from our leaders?