

Romans 13:1-7, pt. 5

Christian Response to State

Christian Response to the State (God's Servant:

- 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. <u>Respectfully Disregard</u>: 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. Overcome Evil with Good : 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)
- 6. <u>Never Avenge</u>: Do not violently resist the State's 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. <u>Pray</u>: 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)

Particularly Difficult Applications:

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
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Praxis	
1.	Evaluate the applications presented in this sermon for each of the 5 scenarios – where would you differ in how you would respond?
2. 3.	What specific Scriptures / principles would use to back-up your decisions in those situations? What questions does this series in Romans 13 still leave in your mind? Discuss these things with other Christians, pray

about them, and search out the Scriptures.

4. In what ways are you more prepared to engage with civic authorities and laws after this study?