

**EBC – Adult Bible Study**  
**“Spirit Empowered, Godly Living in an Ungodly World”**  
**2019-2020**

**III. Living with the “Secular” and the “Sacred” together – Government’s purpose and responsibility. Why Do We Need Government?**

A. There are a lot of ideas out there.

1. To make and establish laws
  - a. What laws are necessary or desirable?
  - b. Depending on the type of government, there is a wide opinion to the above question
2. To protect people from conflicts
  - a. From other citizens - Police
  - b. From outside sources - Military
3. To serve the interests of the ruling class
  - a. Throughout history, the implicit or explicit purpose of government was to care for the interests of rulers, monarchs, dictators, aristocracies, etc.
  - b. Only since the Greek Empire, has the average citizen become part of the purpose of government, of, by, and for the people.
  - c. b/c people are busy pursuing their happiness, they become distracted or disinterested to notice when privilege groups shape the Government to serve their purposes
4. To deal with essential services
  - a. Safety, prosperity, and justice
  - b. Those things that the private market usually cannot provide
    - i. Military
    - ii. Postal service?????
    - iii. Clean air, water, etc.
    - iv. Interstate Hwy
  - c. Social programs are considered by some to fit here - Since the 60s, Lyndon B. Johnson’s Great Society, we have spent 22 trillion on welfare programs
5. To manage the economy
  - a. Started in the 1930s
  - b. After the depression, US created the Federal Reserve System to ward off inflation and monitor the value of the dollar
6. Preamble of the Constitution
  - a. Establish justice
  - b. Insure domestic tranquility
  - c. Provide for the common defense
  - d. Promote the general welfare
  - e. Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our posterity

## 7. All of the Above

### B. What reasons does God give for Government?

#### 1. Two main Passages

- a. Ro 13:1-7 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.
- b. 1Pe 2:13-17 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men-- as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

#### 2. What do we learn about government?

- a. God ordained – Ro 13:1-2
  - i. Rebellion against government is rebellion against God
  - ii. Rebellion brings judgment
- b. Government is a terror to evil and evil doers, not to those who do good – Ro 13:3-4; 1 Pet 2:14
  - i. Bears the sword
  - ii. Executes wrath on those who do evil
  - iii. Taxes pay for this job
- c. Establish laws – 1 Pet 2:13

### C. In looking at God's purpose for Government, why is there a need for any or all of the above?

#### 1. Man is depraved in his nature

- a. Definition - a state of corruption due to original sin which infects every part of man's nature and to make the natural man unable to know or obey God
- b. The doctrine of total **depravity** asserts that people are, as a result of the fall, not inclined or even able to love God wholly with heart, mind, and strength, but

rather are inclined by nature to serve their own will and desires and reject his rule. – Ro 3:10-18; Ps 1:16; 5:9; 10:7; 14:1-3; 36:1; 53:1; 140:3;

- c. It doesn't mean that man is as bad as he can be, but that he is not able or desirous of pleasing God
2. Man is self-seeking
    - a. Definition
      - i. Pursuing only one's own ends or interests.
      - ii. Exhibiting concern only with promoting one's own ends or interests: *self-seeking maneuvers*.
    - b. b/c of depravity, man's interest and efforts are aimed at what benefits himself
  3. Man does not govern himself unless he has a motivational reason
    - a. Definition – exercising control over one's own self or affairs
    - b. Listed in the Bible as self-control or Temperance
      - i. Characteristic of people in the last days – 2 Ti 3:1-5 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
      - ii. Is a fruit of the Spirit used in contrast to the works of the flesh - Ga 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
      - iii. Is to be developed in the believer's life, b/c it is not natural –
        - 1Co 7:5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
        - 1Co 7:9 but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.
        - 2Pe 1:5-6 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

**Note: From the Declaration of Independence:**

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men,