

# Christianity and Politics

## [Romans 13](#)

"God & Government" – July 12, 2020

### **Introduction**

When we talk about politics as Christians it's easy to put too much hope in politics or assume nothing good can come of it. What is God's purpose for government? How should Christians think about governing authorities?

### **Pray**

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

### **Sermon Outline**

- I. God Authorizes Government for Our Good ([13:1-5](#))
- II. Love Fulfills the Law ([13:6-10](#))

### **Read & Discuss**

#### **1) Read [13:1-5](#)**

Government is designed to create order that makes life livable and to establish justice. If mankind was left to do whatever he/she wanted without any moral restraint, it would be constant war with each man for himself. Government is far from perfect but even flawed government is better than anarchy. In Romans 13:1, Paul reminds us that all government authority is borrowed authority - given by God who sits on the throne. So what?

- 1. Because government is instituted by God, they are accountable to God.*
- 2. Because government is instituted by God, He has good purposes for imperfect governments and evil rulers.*
- 3. Because government is instituted by God, we should not treat politicians like gods, nor should they act like gods.*
- 4. Because government is instituted by God, we see the mercy of God.*
- 5. Because government is instituted by God, we are to be subject.*

Take a moment and reflect on what this teaches you about God and His character. What can you praise Him for in light of what you see?

**Additional Reading:** John 19:1-11, Proverbs 21:5

## 2) Read [13:6-10](#)

We always owe the debt to love each other and one way to love God and to love our neighbor is to submit to the state and to pay our taxes. So how do we honor and respect governing authorities when sometimes their character and policies are evil? What does love and submission to authorities look like then?

1. *Pray* - [1 Tim 2](#) is our example here. Pray for just laws, for wise rulers, that authorities would punish evil and commend good.
2. *Work for a better government*. After we pray, we should use our democratic stewardship to hold authorities accountable and improve the state. There are many things we can do whether its voting, running for office, working for and supporting just law-making, etc. When the state commands what God forbids or forbids what God commands there are cases that call for civil disobedience (Acts 5:29).
3. *Work for a healthy church and share the gospel*.

Laws and government are good in that they restrain the evil of wild and evil hearts, but no policy or law no matter how good it is can change the heart of man. Only God has the power to do that. When we come to God and know His love and forgiveness we are made new creations and *want* to love God and neighbor. A church filled with 'new-creations' should be a group that is different than the world in the hope they have and the love they share. What are ways you can work for and be involved in a healthy church?

**Additional Reading:** 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Exodus 1:15-22

### ***Prayer of Response***

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's:</b> we turn to <b>Ephesians 2:11-22 "Earthly exiles, heavenly citizens"</b>
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