

## Christian Citizenship Bible Study

### **Romans 13:1-5 Submit to Government**

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.

**Can anyone of us claim that we do not have to obey the government?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who really gives us our government?** (though we elect the leaders) \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

**Disobeying the government really means disobeying** \_\_\_\_\_.

**In what does this result?** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> 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.

**How do we keep the government from bothering us?** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>4</sup> 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. ("He" refers to the government.) **How does Paul describe the government?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is God's purpose for earthly government?** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>5</sup> Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

**We obey the government because we do not want to get into trouble but also for the sake of our** \_\_\_\_\_. (We won't feel guilty and we can sleep at night.)

### **Acts 5:27-32**

<sup>27</sup> And when **they** had brought them, **they** set *them* before the council. And the high priest asked them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

**"They" are the Jewish version of the police. "Them" are the apostles of Jesus. The "council" is the Jewish supreme court. What had they commanded the apostles?** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>29</sup> But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

**What "exception" do they give to the rule of obeying the government?** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. <sup>31</sup> Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are His witnesses to these things, and *so also is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

**What has God done for us that is better than anything the government does for us?**

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### **Luke 20:20-26 The Pharisees: Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes to Caesar?**

<sup>20</sup> So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.

**What are the Pharisees trying to do to Jesus?** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>21</sup> Then they asked Him, saying, “Teacher, we know that You say and teach rightly, and You do not show personal favoritism, but teach the way of God in truth:

**What are they trying to do to Jesus here?** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>22</sup> Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

**What if Jesus says “Yes”?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What if Jesus says “No”?** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>23</sup> But He perceived their craftiness, and said to them, “Why do you test Me? <sup>24</sup> Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have?” They answered and said, “Caesar’s.”

**Jesus sees through their deception. How does He answer their question?** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>25</sup> And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>26</sup> But they could not catch Him in His words in the presence of the people. And they marveled at His answer and kept silent.

**Very simply Jesus teaches us that we have an obligation to the government and we have an obligation to God. Which should be our priority?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is our obligation to the government that Jesus specifically points out here?** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Romans 13:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are *God’s ministers* attending continually to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

“They” means governing authorities. **Which commandment applies here?** \_\_\_\_\_

“Taxes”- this would include regular taxes paid like property and income taxes

“Customs”- these are the irregular taxes we pay on things we purchase

“Fear”- this is our inner feeling of respect and obedience to those over us

“Honor”- this is our outward show of respect and obedience to those over us

### **Philippians 3:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

*The Greek city of Philippi was populated by many retired Roman soldiers who were given property there in retirement but maintained their Roman citizenship. They were to introduce Roman laws and customs and keep the peace. The natives of the area would be less inclined to rebel if they were surrounded by retired Roman soldiers.*

**Where does Paul say our Christian citizenship really is?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who is coming from there to get us?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What will Jesus do for us when He comes to get us?** \_\_\_\_\_