

Paul's Letter to the
Romans

Ch. 13:1-7 pt 3



W

N

E

6 REASONS FOR CHRISTIANS TO SUBMIT TO THEIR GOVERNMENT



- 1) God Commands it. (v. 1)
- 2) God has placed them there. (v. 1)
- 3) God gave them that authority (v. 1)
- 4) They preform a function (reward good, punish evil). (v. 3)
- 5) They are “Ministers of God” and given a “sword” to do it. (v. 4)
- 6) You know its right (your conscience). (v. 5)

ROMANS 13:1-7

1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;

4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.



ROMANS 13:4



4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

Minister: “One who serves as an intermediary...one who gets something done, at the behest of a superior” BDAG

MINISTER/SERVANT OF GOD



Isaiah 41:2 “Who has aroused one from the east Whom He calls in righteousness to His feet? He delivers up nations before him And subdues kings. He makes them like dust with his sword, As the wind-driven chaff with his bow.”

Isaiah 44:28 “It is I who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.’ And he declares of Jerusalem, ‘She will be built,’ And of the temple, ‘Your foundation will be laid.’ ”

MINISTER/SERVANT OF GOD

Ezra 1:1-2 “Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying:

“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.”



MINISTER/SERVANT OF GOD

Jer. 25:9 “Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will send to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations round about; and I will utterly destroy them and make them a horror and a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.”



MINISTER/SERVANT OF GOD

Turn to Daniel 4:10-37



3 Times!

- “In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men.”

Daniel 4:17, 25, 32

ROMANS 13:4



4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

Sword: Speaks of the power God grants to governments and nations to USE the sword to eliminate evil.

Avenger: Refers to "Justice being done so as to rectify a wrong done to another. A punisher."

THIS VERSE



"Romans 13:4b is one of the most important verses in Scripture in terms of the development of historic, classic Christian ethics, especially with respect to two monumentally important issues. The first is capital punishment and the second is warfare and whether Christians can, in good conscience, engage in war. We see here that God himself has given to the civil magistrate the power of the sword." R. C. Sproul

GENESIS 9:5-6



“Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man’s brother I will require the life of man. “Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.”

WHAT DID JESUS SAY?!

Matt 26:51 “And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.



Matt 26:52 “Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.”

John 19:10 “So Pilate said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?”

John 19:11 “Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.””

ROMANS 13:4



4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

1 PETER 2:13-14



“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.”

That is what makes us different from chickens and kangaroos; we have been stamped with the image of God. That is why, if somebody rises up as Cain did and kills his brother with malice aforethought, God sees it as an attack on himself. Human life is so sacred that if you rise up without just cause and kill your neighbor, you forfeit all rights and privileges to your own life. God gives the forfeited life not to the victims relative for vengeance [see last chapter] but to the civil authorities. God has given the government the sword, and government is to see to it that punishment is carried out.” R. C. Sproul



ROMANS 13:4



4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

6 REASONS FOR CHRISTIANS TO SUBMIT TO THEIR GOVERNMENT



- 1) God Commands it. (v. 1)
- 2) God has placed them there. (v. 1)
- 3) God gave them that authority (v. 1)
- 4) They preform a function (reward good, punish evil). (v. 3)
- 5) They are “Ministers of God” and given a “sword” to do it. (v. 4)

“Romans 13:4 also serves as the locus classicus in historical Christian ethics concerning the just-war theory. The fundamental principle of the just war theory is that: If a nation or a people aggressively invades or attacks another nation, the attacked nation is the victim of external aggression, so it has the right and the responsibility to protect itself from the invading aggressor.” R. C. Sproul



“The Christian must make sure that the cause is just before we pick up a gun or a sword and kill anybody. It is silly to assume that a government can be trusted to engage in only just military activity. I do not know of any nation in history that has not, at one point or another, used its power and authority in an unjust manner. That is why we have to be vigilant. When the nation is involved in the just defense of its borders, and the civil magistrate calls us to pick up the sword, it is our duty to use the sword. However, if the nation conscripts us to engage in an unjust aggression or invasion of an innocent nation, we are equally obligated to say no” R. C. Sproul



ROMANS 13:5-7



5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

6 REASONS FOR CHRISTIANS TO SUBMIT TO THEIR GOVERNMENT



- 1) God Commands it. (v. 1)
- 2) God has placed them there. (v. 1)
- 3) God gave them that authority (v. 1)
- 4) They preform a function (reward good, punish evil). (v. 3)
- 5) They are “Ministers of God” and given a “sword” to do it. (v. 4)
- 6) You know its right (your conscience). (v. 5)