

Christian's Responsibility to Government

2 Pet. 2:10

Introduction:

- A. Government is fundamental to civilized life.
 - 1. *Govern* - To control; guide; direct. - To rule by exercise of sovereign authority - To regulate or determine. - To restrain - To decide; determine.
 - 2. Needed at all levels of society.
- B. Let's notice our responsibilities as dual citizens - in kingdom of God and kingdoms of men.

Discussion:

I. Our Responsibilities As Citizens Of The Kingdom Of God.

- A. To behave as citizens of heaven. (Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 2:11).
- B. To honor all authority in the kingdom.
 - 1. The authority of Christ. (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:20-23).
 - 2. The authority of the apostles. (2 Cor. 10:8; 13:10).
 - 3. The authority of the preached word. (Tit. 2:15)
 - 4. The authority God-ordained elders. (1 Cor. 12:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-20; Heb. 13:27,24)
- C. To respect the non-political nature of the kingdom of God. (John 18:36)

II. Our Responsibilities As Citizens Of The Kingdoms Of Men.

- A. To recognize them as *ordained* of God. (Rom. 13:1,2).
- B. To recognize them as *servants* of God. (Rom. 13:4).
 - 1. Serving under the "King of kings and Lord of lords." (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14).
 - a. "King of kings" was applied to heads of empires - kings over other kings (Ezra 7:12; Dan. 2:37,38)
 - b. God ruled over nations in Old Testament. (Psa. 22:28; Dan. 2:21; 4:17, 25-32; 5:21)
 - 2. Serving as God's avenger. (Rom. 12:19-13:4).
 - 3. Even ungodly governments are servants of God. (John 19:10,11; Isa. 10:5-7)
- C. To conscientiously obey all their laws. (Rom. 13:5; 1 Pet. 2:13-17) - one exception. (Acts 5:29).
- D. To pay taxes, customs, etc. to them. (Rom. 13:7; Matt. 22:21)
- E. To pray for them. (1 Tim. 2:1,2).
- F. We *may* exercise *rights* given by them. (Acts 16:27,38; 25:11)

Conclusion:

- A. Christians respect the government of God through Christ.
- B. Christians respects all government ordained of God.