

CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT

ROMANS 13:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Romans is about the gospel (Rom. 1.17)
 - a) Chapter 1-11 teach us how to be right with God.
 - b) Chapter 12-15 teach us how to live by faith.
2. **ROMANS 13.1-7:** To live by faith is to live in subjection to governing authorities no matter your politics.

I. CIVIL GOVERNMENT COMES FROM GOD

- A. Defining our terms.
 1. Governing (huperecho): Literally, to hold under.
 2. Authority (exousia): The right to tell others how to live.
 3. Ruler (archon): First in rank or power. (cf. Matt. 20.25)
- B. Who is responsible for the authority of civil government?
 1. **ROMANS 13.1:** *“There is no authority except from God.”*
 2. **ROMANS 13.1:** *“Authorities...are appointed by God.”*
 3. **ROMANS 13.2:** *“The ordinance of God.”*
 4. Authorities contradict God’s laws? (Acts 4.18-20; 5.29)

II. SUBMITTING TO GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

- A. We have two choices in how I relate to government.
 1. **ROMANS 13.1:** *“Let every soul be subject”*
 2. **ROMANS 13.2:** *“Therefore whoever resists”*
- B. The way that I am to relate to law enforcement.
 1. **ROMANS 13.3:** *“Do what is good.”*
 2. **ROMANS 13.4:** *“For he is God’s minister for good.”*
 3. **ROMANS 13.4:** *“For he is God’s minister, an avenger.”*
- C. Why should I be in subjection to governing authorities?
 1. **ROMANS 13.5:** *“because of wrath.”*
 2. **ROMANS 13.5:** *“also for conscience sake.”*
- D. Why do I have to pay taxes?
 1. **ROMANS 13.6:** *“For because of this you also pay taxes”*
 2. **ROMANS 13.7:** *“Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due...”*

CONCLUSION: No matter who is in office, Christians live by faith.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

October 9, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

GIVING THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

The greatest blessing ever given to us by God is not His Son, but the gift of forgiveness that we receive because of His Son (Eph. 2.8; 2 Cor. 9.15). Do we have the right to withhold that same gift from others?

Jesus tells us that *“If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him”* (Luke 17.3). This is referring to sin that a brother in Christ commits that results in you being hurt. If a fellow Christian hurts me, the first thing that I must do is rebuke him. This means that I must *“go to him and tell him his fault”* (Matt. 18.15). I am not to hide in a corner and stew in anger and resentment. I am not to wait for this brother to come to me and make it right. I am to go to him.

After I approach the one who hurt me and he repents, then I am to forgive him. The idea of forgiveness is expressed in Hebrews 10.2 where it refers to having *“no more consciousness of sins.”* The idea is to treat him as if he never sinned against me. I am not to hold a grudge. I am not to keep bringing it up. I am to forgive.

There isn’t much worse you can do to someone than to withhold forgiveness to the one who seeks it. *“But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”* (Matt. 6.15).

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SHOULD YOUR CONSCIENCE BE YOUR GUIDE

ACTS 24:16

INTRODUCTION:

1. Can you rely on your conscience to guide your decisions? Can your conscience be trusted to lead you in the right direction?
2. The conscience is constantly evaluating your decisions and comparing them to your values. (2 Cor. 1.12)
3. The Bible emphasizes the need for a clean conscience, but it is not a reliable guide for knowing right from wrong. (Acts 24.16).

I. UNINFORMED

- A. By itself, the conscience cannot know right from wrong.
 1. Though Paul persecuted the church, he *“lived in all good conscience before God”* (Acts 23.1; 26.10.11)
 2. How could Paul have a good conscience after doing so much harm? *“I did it ignorantly”* (1 Tim. 1.13; Acts 26.9).
 3. **1 CORINTHIANS 4.4:** *“I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this.”*
- B. The conscience must be trained by the Bible.
 1. The Bible can *“discern both good and evil”* (Heb. 5.12).
 2. How can we have a clean conscience in spite of being accused of wrongdoing? (1 Pet. 3.16).

II. UNFEELING

- A. The conscience can become unfeeling no longer produce feelings of guilt and remorse. (1 Tim. 4.2)
 1. There was a departure. (1 Tim. 4.1)
 2. There was a deception. (1 Tim. 4.2; cf. 1 John 4.1)
 3. There was a description. (1 Tim. 4.3; cf. Matt. 23.15)
- B. The Bible can provoke us to feelings.
 1. Having repeatedly sinned, we become *“past feeling”* no longer remorseful of our bad choices. (Eph. 4.19).
 2. Instead, let the word of God guide you. (2 Cor. 7.8-10)

III. UNFORGIVING

- A. The conscience is our judge.
 1. The conscience is either *“accusing or else excusing”* our choices. (Rom. 2.15); Acts 24.25)
 2. Our conscience can be overly sensitive. (Ps. 51.3)
- B. The Bible can ease our guilty conscience.
 1. **1 JOHN 3.19-21:** *“If our heart condemns us...”*
 2. Do you believe God? (Heb. 10.17; Ps. 103.12; Isa. 38.17)

CONCLUSION: Obey the gospel to have a clean conscience.

THREE REASONS SOME WILL NOT GO TO HEAVEN

Christians have the *“hope of eternal life which God who cannot lie, promised before time began”* (Titus 1.2). We can have confidence to *“know that you have eternal life”* (1 John 5.13). This hope does not come because of the good that you have done. It comes because of the good that God has done (Eph. 2.8). It is the grace of God that saves us which we access through an obedience faith (Rom. 5.1,2).

However, God does not save everyone. Because of the choices they have made, many have *“a certain fearful expectation of judgment”* in their future (Heb. 10.27). God is loving and merciful. But He is also severe in His judgments (Rom. 11.22; Matt. 25.24-26). If we choose to live contrary to His prescribed lifestyle, we will not enjoy eternal life in heaven. Consider three reasons why some will not make it to heaven.

First, some will not go to heaven because they have not obeyed the gospel. We are told in 2 Thessalonians 1.8,9 that *“everlasting destruction”* awaits those *“who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* It is the gospel that is *“God’s power to save”* (Rom. 1.16). Obeying the gospel involves having faith (Acts 10.43), repenting (Acts 3.19), confessing the name of Jesus (Rom. 10.10), and being immersed in water (1 Pet. 3.21). Many believe they are saved because they have faith. But faith alone does not save (James 2.19,20). If you have not obeyed the gospel, you cannot go to heaven (1 Pet. 1.22).

Second, some will not go to heaven because they are unrighteous. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write that *“the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God”* (1 Cor. 6.9). He then lists ten types of people who are defined as unrighteous (1 Cor. 6.9,10). The Bible defines unrighteousness as sin. The two words are synonymous (1 John 3.4; 5.17). If you do not keep the commandments of God, then you cannot go to heaven.

Third, some will not go to heaven because they are living according to the flesh. Galatians 5.19 refers to the *“works of the flesh.”* We are then told that *“those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God”* (Gal. 5.21). If you are doing those things that are of the flesh, you cannot go to heaven (Rom. 8.7,8).

If you have not obeyed the gospel, you can still do so (Acts 2.38). If you are unrighteous because you have broken the commandments of God, you can be cleansed (1 Cor. 6.11; 1 John 1.9). If you have been living according to the flesh, you can change the focus of your life and live according to the Spirit (Gal. 5.22-25). Heaven and Hell come down to choice. Which eternal destination will you choose (Deut. 30.19).

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