

***What is our responsibility
to earthly authorities?***

PASTOR ZAC HESS • MATTHEW 22



Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Him in His words.

Matthew 22:15

And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and You do not care about anyone’s opinion, for You are not swayed by appearances.”

Matthew 22:16

“Tell us, then, what You think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”

Matthew 22:17

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put Me to the test, you hypocrites?”

Matthew 22:18

“Show Me the coin for the tax.” And they brought Him a denarius.

Matthew 22:19

And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?”

Matthew 22:20

They said, “Caesar’s.” Then He said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Matthew 22:21

When they heard it, they marveled. And they left Him and went away.

Matthew 22:22



The Plan of Authority



*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.
For there is no authority except from God, and those that
exist have been instituted by God.*

Romans 13:1

Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

Romans 13:2

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

Romans 13:3

for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

Romans 13:5

For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

Romans 13:6

Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to who revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

*Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution,
whether it be to the emperor as supreme,*

*or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil
and to praise those who do good.*

The Permission of Authority



*But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying,
“Let those men go.”*

Acts 16:35

And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, “The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace.”

But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out.”

Acts 16:37

The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens.

Acts 16:38

So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city.

Acts 16:39

The Providence Over Authority



*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.
For there is no authority except from God, and those that
exist have been instituted by God.*

Romans 13:1

O Lord, God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In Your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand You.

Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; behold, He takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

*The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord;
He turns it wherever He will.*

Proverbs 21:1

So Pilate said to Him, “Do you not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above.”

John 19:10

No plans of man will ever be fulfilled unless they are part of God's plan. God's plan determines which human plans succeed, whether we are talking about the plans of the most powerful nations or of individual kings or their subjects.

John Piper

The Posture Towards Authority



Prayer



First of all, then I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions.

Peace



...that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evil doer or as a meddler.

Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed.

Romans 13:7

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

Jeremiah 29:4

“Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.”

Jeremiah 29:5

“Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.”

Jeremiah 29:6

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:7

Persuasion



This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,

1 Timothy 2:3

who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

1 Timothy 2:5

who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

For this I was appointed a preacher and an Apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

I want you to know brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel,

Philippians 1:12

so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

Philippians 1:13

And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Philippians 1:14

Perspective



As a Christian, you have a heavenly citizenship that is more important than your earthly citizenship.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:10

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

1 Peter 2:11

As a Christian, it is appropriate for you to show earthly honor to those who serve.

As a Christian, you have a grand, eternal perspective.

And to Him was given dominion and glory and a Kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His Kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:14

**Followers of Jesus live courageous
and respectful lives in society
for the glory and mission of God.**

