

Theme: Government has been given by God as part of the common kingdom of man to promote justice and maintain order, and Christians are called to pray for and submit to their government whenever possible.

I. Intro – Story or Topic

- A. Wise avoid two forbidden topics - religion and politics
- B. To remove any doubt about my lack of wisdom - talk about both!
- C. Thrust upon us by culture - must deal with this
- D. Jesus and Pharisees - Matt 22:15-22
- E. Strong feelings all around - what does Scripture say
- F. We will look at longest text on topic

II. Key Principles About Government

- A. Government is ordained by God
 - 1. Established, instituted by God (v1-2)
 - 2. God's servant (vv 4,6)
 - 3. Rooted in Gen 9:5-6 -
 - a. God demands account (v5)
 - b. But man executes punishment (v6)
 - c. Probably goes back to Gen 4 with Cain
- B. Government - not a particular form - is ordained
 - 1. Does not say what type - just government
 - 2. v1 - no authority except established by God

- 3. v1 - authorities that exist established by God
- 4. No particular form is more biblical than another
- 5. Kings specifically mentioned many times!
- 6. Democracy is not the biblical form - but I like it!
- C. Governments primary task is justice & order
 - 1. v3 - called to punish evil, reward good
 - 2. v4 - bears sword, agent of wrath, punish wrong
 - 3. Gen 9:6 - punish murder as image of God
 - a. Punish because murder is destroying image of God
 - b. Punish because as image of God we can judge
- D. Government is a good thing in this fallen world
 - 1. v4 (ESV) - God's servant for our good
 - 2. 1 Tim 2:1-4 - gov't gives quiet, peaceful life
 - 3. Remember Nero is the Emperor when this was written!
 - 4. "Tyranny is better than anarchy" (Calvin - Daniel commentary)
- E. Government is subject to God's authority
 - 1. v1 - established **by God** - under His authority
 - 2. v4, 6 - God's servant - He is the Master
 - 3. Government may not disobey God
 - 4. Government may not call evil good, dark light
- F. Christians have responsibilities to the government

1. vv1-2 - submit to government; rebellion against God
2. Titus 3:1 - be subject to rulers, obedient
3. 1 Tim 2:1 - pray for them
4. vv6-7 - taxes, honor, respect - OWED
5. Acts 4:19-20 - the limit - don't disobey God
6. This limit is not a cloak for rebellion!

- G. Government is part of the common kingdom of man
1. It arises from the Noahic covenant - common
 2. Its purpose only needed in this age - not eternity
 3. It is very distinct from redemptive kingdom
 - a. Comprised of all people vs believers only
 - b. Concerned with justice vs grace, forgiveness
 - c. Temporary peace, partial justice vs eternal, complete
 - d. Will cease to exist - but KOG is eternal

III. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see government as God's good gift to us?
1. I know there are a lot of jokes here!
 2. It can be the gift that keeps on giving!
 3. Tevya - could you bless someone else?
 4. But government is a gift from God!
 5. Do we see how bad anarchy is and how gov't restrains it?

6. Try visiting other countries - disorder, corruption

B. Do we see the limits of government?

1. It is part of common kingdom of man
2. It is only one sphere among many in common kingdom
3. This means it has limited purposes, abilities
4. Do we act as if life depends on gov't?
5. Do we act as those whose only citizenship is here?
6. Too many Christians act like this is all there is
 - a. Gov't can not replace other spheres - don't act like it can
 - b. Our real hope lies in God' and His kingdom

C. Do we see our responsibility to government?

1. Do we honor our leaders with our words?
2. Even if we do not like them???
3. Do we willingly give taxes as GOD commands?
4. Do we submit to our leaders and laws?
5. There is the exception - but it is RARE
6. Do we pray for our leaders wholeheartedly?

Giving Caesar His Due - The Role and Limits of Government in Culture

Romans 13:1-7
 Psalm 16
 November 14, 2010
 Prayer for the Government
 Numbers 6:24-26

And for your lifeblood **I will surely demand** an accounting. **I will demand an accounting** from every animal. And from each man, too, **I will demand an accounting** for the life of his fellow man. 6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, **by man shall his blood be shed**; for in the image of God has God made man.

Genesis 9:5-6

Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.

Genesis 9:6

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.

Romans 13:4 ESV

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- 2 for kings and all those in authority, **that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness**. 3 **This is good, and pleases God our Savior**, 4 **who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth**.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Remind the people **to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient**, to be ready to do whatever is good,

Titus 3:1

I urge, then, first of all, that **requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made** for everyone-- 2 **for kings and all those in authority**, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4:19-20