

Romans 13.1-7

Kingdom Citizens

In 1073, Hildebrand of Tuscany was publicly acclaimed as pope, **Gregory VII**. All papal appointments needed the Holy Roman Emperor's approval and, much against his will, Gregory was forced to ask this of 17-year old Emperor Henry IV. He decided to end this prerogative of the emperors, all German, once and for all. As a successor of St Peter's, he had absolute power. He drew up a list of 27 declarations about papal powers and privileges. Among them:

- No one on earth can judge the pope.
- The Roman church has never erred and never will until the end of time.
- The pope can depose bishops, emperors and kings...
- All princes must kiss his feet.
- A rightly elected pope is a saint.

Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV was ordered to stop interfering in church appointments. Henry was furious and nullified the pope's election. Gregory countered by excommunicating the emperor: *"I forbid Henry to govern the kingdoms of Italy and Germany and excommunicate every person who shall serve him as king."* Henry realised he had no option but make peace with the pope. He crossed the Alps in the winter of 1077 making his way precariously through snowdrifts and ravines and losing most of his horses.

Henry was left out in the cold in full view of pope. He was ordered to hand over his crown and royal regalia and publicly confess his unworthiness as emperor. Henry was stripped off all clothes and given a rough woollen tunic. He was left there teeth chattering, skin turning blue, knee-deep in snow begging for mercy for *three days and nights*. Only then did the pope relent. Henry had to swear to abide by the pope's will and do penance. On his return home, Henry appointed another pope. In 1085, Henry marched into Rome, forcing Gregory to flee to Naples. The pope's title was upgraded from Vicar of St Peter's to Vicar of Christ. Gregory was declared saint in 1606.

TODAY CONSIDER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE

Why STATE'S ROLE here in Romans?

1. ch 12 > No Retaliation allowed for Believer, No place for Revenge
Shall we forever be victimized by evil people? > State's Duty: Restrain Evil

PROTECT from EVIL withIN and ENEMIES withOUT

2. This Church existed at Center of Roman Empire > heart of Roman Law & Govt.

3. Jews were NOTORIOUSLY REBELLIOUS against Pagan Gov't Authorities
In EYES of Roman Gov't > Christians was associated with Judaism

“Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome.” Acts 18.2
When letter written > Christians being protected by Rome > Turmoil was Coming

4. Jesus is KING > Remarkable there were NO Christian Gov't Leaders
Global – Regional – or Local > No Born Again Caesars > UNIMAGINABLE!

Abraham KUYPER former PM of Netherlands > “There is not one square inch of
the Universe over which Jesus Christ does not say ‘It is mine! It is mine!’”

1 Role of the State 2 Responsibility of the Citizen 3 Rights of the Christian

1. Role of the State

a. Servant of God > Paul is stating God's IDEAL > not always Human Reality

v. 1 “governing authorities..God has established..authorities..established by God”

v. 2 “authority...God has instituted” v. 4 “For he is God's servant”

v. 6 “the authorities are God's servants”

9.17 “For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose”

GOD says: “By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just; by me princes
govern, and all nobles who rule on earth.” Proverbs 8.15,16

JOHN STOTT “Paul cannot be taken to mean that all the Caligulas, Herods, Neros,
and Domitians of New Testament times, and all the Hitlers, Stalins, Amins, and
Saddams of our times, were personally appointed by God, that God is responsible
for their behavior...Paul means that all human authority is derived from God's
authority...Pilate misused his authority to condemn Jesus; nevertheless, the
authority he used to do this had been delegated to him by God.”

NO God-given SANCTION > to shoot citizens in the back / steal their property

3 GOD ORDAINED Spheres of Earthly Relations: Family, Church, State

ONE OF LOWEST POINTS IN BIBLICAL HISTORY > period of Judges
 “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.” 21.25
 STATE > God’s WISE PROVISION for AVOIDING ANARCHY

Word “authority” 6 X’s in 7 vs. > “power given by another, delegated power”
 AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENT IS GOD-GIVEN

Jesus to Pontius Pilate: "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. " Jn 19.11

Pontius Pilate = REAL AUTHORITY – God given – RESPONSIBLE how Used

1715 King Louis 14 France DIED > Called self “The GREAT” > “I am the State”
 Court > Most MAGNIFICENT in Europe / FUNERAL > Spectacular, Gold Coffin
 Dramatic > One Lone Candle Burned on Top of Coffin
 Bishop preached very short sermon > Blew out the Candle > “Only God is Great!”

b. Two Tasks: God’s Servants for Good / God’s Servants for Wrath

12.9 “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”

v. 4. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

SWORD = Symbol of Execution > Gov’t Right of CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
 12.19 “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath”

Taught by God to Noah "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

DEATH PENALTY Justifiable / But NOT ALWAYS Demanded by God > CAIN
 New Life and Great Ministries to some LIFE takers > Moses, David, & Paul

Preached at “Church behind Bars” > State Prison in Hawaii > all Elders Murderers
 THIS ENCOURAGED MY FULL CO-OPERATION WITH THEIR PROGRAM!

POINT > IF you do COMMIT CRIME > do not EXPECT to Get out of It
 Individual DEMONSTRATES Love / State DIPENSES Justice

C.S. LEWIS “Humanitarian Theory of Punishment” critique of Gov’t efforts to Cure and Reform Criminals > seems most compassionate > most Cruel

1. Replaces judges & objective legal punishment for psychological experts
2. Removes personal responsibility, criminal not considered moral agent
3. Crime becomes disease, and state determines what are diseases

“Romans 13 says the state has no business of trying to cure people, only that it is mandated by God to punish bad behavior and reward good actions. The state must have a standard of right and wrong and administer that standard impartially.”

SYMBOL used here not Syringe, or Stethoscope, not even Scripture, but Sword

v. 4 “For he is God's servant to do you good” GOV’T SHOULD Reward GOOD

ROMAN WORLD Tradition > “Benefactors were publicly praised”

STATE often BETTER at PUNISHING than REWARDING
Should be Award, Recognition, Title or Decoration for PUBLIC GOODNESS
INSTILLS Values / Civic Pride / Moral Virtue in Youth and Citizens

2. Responsibility of the Citizen

a. Obey All-Encompassing, Absolute, Unqualified Statement –

v. 1 “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.” > Reasons WHY we Obey –

1. God is Sovereign v. 1 “The authorities that exist have been established by God.”

Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar: “You (will) acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.” 4.25
Nebuchadnezzar LEARNED THIS THE HARD WAY

2. God will Punish v. 2 “he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves”

3. Peace with Man v. 3 “do what is right and he will commend you”

NOT ROCKET SCIENCE > It is REASONABLE and SENSIBLE

b. Pay > Wide Array of Taxes in the Ancient World > Nothing New Under Sun!

v. 6 “This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue”

Government Officials NEED TO EAT! Clothe their Kids / Pay their Taxes!
Fill the Potholes / Equip Hospitals and Schools / Pay Pensions / Collect TRASH

CALVIN “The magistrates...should remember that all that they receive from the people is public property, and not a means of satisfying private lust and luxury.”

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH TAXES? Answer depends on payer or payee?

Samuel told the word of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. "This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots...He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day." 1 Samuel 8
But the people refused to listen. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us."
THEY ASKED FOR IT THEN / WE ASK FOR IT NOW > by our Passivity

c. Honor > God Appointed / Honor Role they Fulfill Under God

v. 7 “if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.”

WARREN WIERSBE “Even though we cannot always respect the man in office, we must respect the office, for government was ordained by God.”

BEST WAY TO HONOR IS TO PRAY FOR THEM 1 Timothy 2.1-4

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

PEACEFUL & QUIET LIFE: Good Atmosphere for GOSPEL ADVANCEMENT

3. Rights of the Christian

a. Dual Citizenship > “Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ” Phil 3.20

FIND BIBLICAL BALANCE: “Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.” 1 Peter 2.17

The Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap (Jesus) in his words... "Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. (YOU'RE in TROUBLE WHEN THEY say THAT!) Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" Mt 22:15-21

“Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” CROWD Shocked and Silenced

Rabbi Nahum ben Simai: "sign of holiness never to look at the portrait on the coin"
COIN > HATED symbol of Roman power pagan idolatry // USD to some Today
VIOLATES 1st (no other gods) and 2nd (no images) COMMANDMENTS

Jesus asks THEM TO GIVE COIN – Pharisees CARRY IT!! LOOK AT IT!!!
They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this?
And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied.

ROMAN DENARIUS - During reign of Augustus and Tibereas CAESARS

One Side - Bust of the Emperor w/ INSCRIPTION "Tiberius Caesar, son of the DEIFIED Augustus" = MAN MAKING HIMSELF TO BE GOD

Other Side - Tiberius' mother – Livia w/ INSCRIPTION = "Highest Priest"

Then he said to them, "*Give to Caesar what is Caesar's*"
GIVE CAESAR HIS DUE - TAXES - BENEFITS OF ROMAN GOVERNMENT
minted coins, maintained defense, administered justice, built roads

CLASSIC STATEMENT of Christians Dual Citizenship / Dual Responsibilities
2000 years Christian's Struggled to FIND RIGHT BALANCE / 4 Possibilities

1. GOD ALONE as an Authority > various Christians have DONE THIS

Monasticism > Movement built on premise of isolation from world

Missionaries > Ignore host government and forget home government

Megachurches > Fitness centers & McDonalds in their own facilities, holy huddle

2. CAESAR ALONE as an Authority > SECULARISM

Incredible EXAMPLE > Jewish Religious Leaders who met with Pontius Pilate
 "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief
 priests answered. John 19:15

MOST DANGEROUS POSSIBILITY > No God to Control Caesar, whims, cruelty
NO ULTIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY / NO PROTECTION FROM STATE

Wisdom of America's Founding Fathers > System of Checks and Balances
 Executive / Legislative / Judicial BRANCHES of Gov't / Control Eachother
 Power Corrupts > Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely

3. Authority of God AND Caesar > with CAESAR in DOMINANT Position

Position of COWARDS > GOD by Definition is Ultimate / Supreme Being
 People MORE AFRAID of Power of State > State's power is Real, but Temporal

Classic Example > Pontius Pilate > knew Innocence of Jesus > Washed His Hands!
 WIFE had told Pilate of Jesus Innocence > Everyone knows Wife is Always Right!

Jews taunted Pilate at Mock Trial of Jesus > knew how to get to him
 "Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone
 who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." John 19.12

Position > Always LOSER w/ God & Man > Pilate never got Caesar's Friendship
 Few years later > LOST position > Exiled to France DIED

In the End Mordecai's Gallows was used to hang Haman

4. Authority of God AND Caesar > with GOD in DOMINANT Position

RIGHT EMPHASIS IS ON THE LAST PART OF JESUS'S STATEMENT
GIVE "to God what is God's."

ANCIENT COIN – Symbol of Imperial Power & Authority Pressed into Metal
 Jesus - MARK OF GOD PRESSED ONTO HUMAN FLESH
 “The Son is the radiance of God's glory & the exact presentation of his being”
 Heb 1.3

ONLY JESUS IS WORTHY OF ULTIMATE OBEDIENCE AND WORSHIP

“Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.”
 Isaiah 40:17

Scripture SPEAKS FAVORABLY about –

HEBREW MIDWIVES: hid baby boys instead handing them to Pharaoh’s sword

Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego: refused to worship Emperor’s Golden Image

DANIEL: said his daily prayers even when they defied IMPERIAL DECREE

CHARLES COLSON “In each case their purpose was to demonstrate their submissiveness to God, not their defiance of the government.”

PHILIP YANCEY “Jesus told Pilate ‘My kingdom is not of this world.’ Allegiance to a kingdom ‘not of this world’ has emboldened Christian martyrs who ever since death of their founder, have met the resistance from kingdoms that are of this world. Unarmed believers used that text against their Roman persecutors in the Coliseum, Tolstoy used it to undermine the authority of the tsars, and civil rights marchers used it to challenge apartheid laws in the southern United States and in South Africa...God’s kingdom operates by a set of rules different from any earthly kingdom. It has no geographical borders, no capital city, no parliament building, no royal trappings that you can see. Its followers live right among their enemies, not separated from them by a border fence or a wall. It lives, and grows, on the inside of human beings.”

b. Renewed Conscience v. 5 “It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.”

Paul is Theologian of Conscience > word used 29 X’s NIV Bible > 20 from Paul

EVERYONE HAS CONSCIENCE 2.15 “the requirements of the law are written on the (Gentiles) hearts, their consciences also bearing witness”

Unique Contribution of Paul > Conscience is RENEWED IN CHRIST
 CHRISTIAN > More than just Thermometer > Indicate our Sinful Nature
 Thermostat > Regulate and Control our Sinful Nature

NOT PERFECT Instrument > like SUN DIAL > Needs bright light of God's Truth

"Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day."
 Acts 23.1

Paul to Timothy: "The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."
 1 Timothy 1.5

As BELIEVERS / with a Good Conscience in Christ >

1. We have a HIGHER MOTIVE to Obey

STATE is more than FACELESS Force > Servant of OUR God, OUR Father
 NO GROUNDS for Saying "Everyone is Doing It" / "It's not my law anyway"

ULTIMATE AUTHORITY over Conscience is not Government but God

US Government "CONSCIENCE FUND" > people pay their debts anonymously
 2 Fer: SATISFY your TROUBLED CONSCIENCE AND STAY OUT OF JAIL!

ABUSING LAWS leads to LESS FREEDOM > State CLAMPS DOWN
 Loss of CIVIL LIBERTIES > Invites DICTATORIAL CONTROL

We Sing: "This is My Father's World, Oh, let me never forget, That though the wrong seems, oft' so strong, God is the Ruler yet."

2. We have a STRONGER REASON to Disobey WHEN it is Necessary

JOHN STOTT "We are to submit right up to the point where obedience to the state would entail disobedience to God."

WHEN STATE'S ORDERS CONTRADICTS GOD'S LAWS > Duty to Disobey
 "Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!" A 5.29

Ten Boom family in Netherlands was RIGHT to HIDE JEWS from the Nazis

German pastor MARTIN NIEMOELLER imprisoned by Nazi's for Preaching
 Visited by fellow pastor who said "You would be set free if only you would keep
 silent about certain subjects. So why are you in jail?"

PASTOR MARTIN responded: "Why aren't you in jail?"

Many Sub-Saharan AFRICAN Nations > ONE Party GOVERNMENT CONTROL
 CHURCH FUNCTIONS as Opposition Party > Outspoken National Conscience
 Idi Amin killed a fine man > Janani Luwum > Archbishop of Church of Uganda
 COURAGEOUS CHRISTIAN who Bravely Challenged Amin's Totalitarian Rule

PM Margaret THATCHER > to General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
 "The truths of the Judaic Christian tradition are infinitely precious, not only, as I
 believe, because they are true, but also because they provide moral impulse which
 alone can lead to peace...for which we all long...There is little hope for democracy
 if the hearts of men and women in democratic societies cannot be touched by a call
 to something greater than themselves. Political structures, state institutions,
 collective ideals are not enough. We parliamentarians can legislate for the rule of
 law. You, the church, can teach the life of faith."

c. Absolute Truth > Foundational Idea in this Passage > AGREED Good & Evil

OBJECTIVE MORAL Standard Outside of Itself > Rules Governor & Governed

Scottish Presbyterian > Samuel Rutherford wrote "Lex Rex" LAW IS KING
 COUNTRIES should be Governed by Laws that All in that Country Must Obey

TRAGEDY of Modern Society AND MODERN CHURCH > No Absolute Truth
 Nothing is Always Right / Nothing is Always Wrong / ALL IS RELATIVE

Capt sailing LARGE NAVAL VESSEL at Night > Collision course > Light Ahead

Captain: "Alter your course 10 degrees South"

Reply: "Alter your course 10 degrees North"

Captain: "Alter your course 10 degrees South, I am a Captain"

Reply: "Alter your course 10 degrees North, I am a Seaman 3rd Class"

Captain: "Alter your course 10 degrees South, I am a battleship"

Reply: "Alter your course 10 degrees North, I am a LIGHTHOUSE"

STAND AS BELIEVERS > on Solid, Immovable Rock of God's Eternal Word

Amos 7.7 "The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with
 a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?"

"A plumb line," I replied. Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel"

ANCIENT MEASURING DEVICE > to prove a wall was true, straight, upright

AMOS > as he walked among disobedient Israel > WAS God's True Plumb Line

JAMES BOICE "What can one person do, or even a group of persons? I can tell you what one man did. Jack Eckerd became a Christian in 1983 and he decided that selling Playboy and Penthouse magazines in his extensive drugstore chain was displeasing to God. He called his company's president and told him he wanted the pornographic magazines removed from all the seventeen hundred Eckerd drugstores. The president protested because the sales brought in millions of dollars for the firm, but Eckerd persisted and won. He owned the stores. Moreover, his action caused something of a chain reaction. One by one the stores of his competitors – Revco, Peoples, Rite-Aid, Dart Drug, Grey Drug, and High's Dairy Stores followed Eckerd's lead. The last hold-out was 7-11 which finally in 1986 removed pornography from all its 45,000 stores and recommended that its 36,000 franchises do the same. All this happened without a single law being passed. Why? Because of conscience."

January 1986 > 2 Great Events occurred in Uganda

Arua: Josiah Blair was born / Kampala: Yoweri Museveni became President
Arua > 300 miles from Kampala / held by Rebel Army > enemies of Museveni

MUSEVINI > promised – and has delivered – justice and peace for Uganda

Arua > Rebels looted, raped, and abused those they controlled

Good Friday 1986 > Armies of Museveni liberated Arua, drove out Rebels
2000 yrs ago on that Friday Lord Jesus Christ > Inaugurated Kingdom thru Cross

NOW Jesus Rules & Reigns as King and God

Hostile Rebels REFUSE to Submit to His Righteous Government

LIVE IN SURE HOPE of His Coming > Evil will be Defeated

One Day > Every Knee will Bow to Him, Every Tongue confess Him as
King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Bishop Phillips Brooks "Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your task. Then the doing of the work shall be no miracle, but you shall be the miracle."