



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT CITIZENSHIP AND GOVERNMENT?

1. Government is instituted by God, Romans 13:1-7 (ESV).

¹Let 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. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For 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, ⁴for 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. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Romans 13:1-7 (ESV)

2. We are to be subject to our governing authorities as a display of our faith in God, Romans 13:1-7 (ESV).

3. Our conduct as citizens should bring glory and honor to God, 1 Peter 2:13-17 (ESV).

¹³Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. 1 Peter 2:13-17 (ESV)

4. Whatever measure of freedom we live under should be used to honor The Lord and further His kingdom, 1 Peter 2:13-17 (ESV).

5. We should pray for government leaders, specifically that the gospel would go forward, 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (ESV).

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (ESV)

6. Our loyalty and submission to any human authority ends when it demands we directly disobey God, Acts 5:27-29 (ESV).

²⁷And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. Acts 5:27-29 (ESV)