

## **SUBMIT TO GOVERNMENT: RECOGNIZED RULERSHIP**

### **Romans 13:1**

A relationship between government and religious convictions/Godly convictions

Submission is voluntarily cooperating with anyone out of Love and respect for God first and then secondly out of Love and respect for that person, submitting to non-believers is difficult, but it is a vital part of leading them to Jesus Christ. We are not called to submit to non-believers to the point that we compromise our relationship with God, but we must look for every opportunity to humbly serve in the power of God's Spirit.

Jesus and his Apostles never disobeyed the Government for personal reasons, we as Christians are to live at peace with the state as long as the state allows us to live by our religious/Godly convictions (reverential fear of God).

For hundreds of years, however, there have been at least three interpretations of how we are to do this:

1. Some Christians believe that the state is so corrupt that Christians should have as little to do with it as possible, although they should be good citizens as long as they can do so without compromising their beliefs, they should not work for the government, vote in elections or serve in the military.
2. Others believe that God has given the state authority in certain areas and the church authority in others. Christians can be loyal in both and can work for either. They should not, however confuse the two; in this view, church and state are concerned with two totally different spheres, the spiritual and the physical, therefore they compliment each other but do not work together.
3. Still others believe that Christians have a responsibility to make the state better, they can do this politically (elected government officials) by electing Christians or other high principled leaders. They can also do this morally, by serving as an influence for good, ideally work together for the good of all.

None of these views advocate rebelling or refusing to obey the government's laws or regulations, unless those laws clearly require you to violate the moral standards

revealed by God. Wherever we find ourselves, we must be responsible citizens as well as responsible Christians.

Romans 13:3, 4 the Apostle Paul states "when civil rulers are unjust, upright, people are afraid." Paul is talking about officials who are doing their duty, when officials are JUST people who are doing right have nothing to fear. PRAISE GOD!