

Christians and Civil Government

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The New Testament teaches that Christians have specific obligations to civil government:

First, Christians are instructed to pray for civil authorities. We are to pray for "all men" (1 Timothy 2:1), for "Kings" (1 Timothy 2:2), and for "all that are in authority" (1 Timothy 2:2) including the President, the Congressional leaders, the Supreme Court Judges, State Governors, and local authorities.

Second, Christians are instructed to pay tributes (taxes). Paul says, "For this cause pay ye tributes" (Romans 13:6). Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's" (Matthew 22:21). Notice the detail in Romans 13:7: "render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear, and honor to whom honor."

Third, Christians are instructed to be subject to civil authorities: Titus 3:1--"subject to principalities and powers, obey magistrates;" 1 Peter 2:13-15--"submit to every ordinance of man, to Kings, governors for the Lord's sake." This is the will of God (Romans 13:1-7). Every soul is subject to higher powers and to resist the power (civil authority) is to resist the ordinance of God. This will bring "damnation." Be subject not only for wrath, but also for "conscience sake." The EXCEPTION is when man's law bring one in conflict with God's law (Acts 5:29).