

## THE CHRISTIAN AS A CITIZEN

### I PETER 2:13-17

#### Introduction:

- A. The Christian is a citizen of two kingdoms.
    - 1. The Kingdom of God.
    - 2. The Kingdom of this world.
  
  - B. What are our duties to each?
    - 1. Jesus recognized both.
    - 2. Matt 22:15-22.
    - 3. Peter realizes these truths.
  
  - C. All scriptures must be interpreted by other scriptures.
    - 1. This is the same apostle who had made the following response.
      - a. Acts 4:18-20.
      - b. Acts 5:25-29.
  
  - D. There is then a priority.
    - 1. God is supreme, above every law of man.
    - 2. Man's law is secondary.
  
  - E. This has always been true.
    - 1. Daniel = disobeyed king's decree.
    - 2. Early martyrs, All martyrs.
    - 3. These disobeyed legitimate power.
  
  - F. We must think of the future.
    - 1. The rise of the Antichrist.
    - 2. America will make an agreement.
- I. WE ARE BOUND TO OBEY LAWS THAT DO NOT COMMAND US TO BREAK GOD'S LAWS OR INTERFERE.
- A. "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man."
    - 1. submit = to submit oneself, to yield.
    - 2. ordinance = a founding, a creation.



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- B. The motive.
  - 1. "for the Lord's sake."
  
- C. The roll of human government.
  - 1. "whether it be to the king, as supreme." (emperor)
  - 2. "or unto governors." (regional)
  - 3. "punishment of evildoers."
  - 4. "praise of them that do well."
  
- D. Paul's instruction to the Romans.
  - 1. Romans 13:1-8.
  - 2. This is the same "power" that took Paul's life.
  - 3. v6 - "tax-gatherers are ministers of God."
  - 4. v7 - "Pay your taxes and impart duties gladly."
  - 5. v8 - "Leave no debt unpaid, except the standing debt of love."

## II. SURE CURE FOR CRITICIZING UNBELIEVERS.

- A. "for this is the will of God."
  - 1. "that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."
  
- B. The example of the Waldenses.
  - 1. Duke of Savoy.
  
- C. Freedom and liberty in God's Spirit does not license us to do wrong. v16.
  - 1. "live as free people, yet without employing your freedom as a pretext for wickedness."
  - 2. "always live as servants of God."
  
- D. The Christian attitude toward others.
  - 1. "honor all men" = "show respect"
  - 2. "love the brotherhood."
  - 3. "fear God."
  - 4. "honor the king."

III. OUR DUTY TO OUR COUNTRY.

A. Participate in honest government.

1. Register to vote and vote.

B. Pay your taxes.

C. Obey laws.

1. Local.

2. State.

3. National.