

Responding Biblically to Government's Authority

I. Christians are _____ Citizens (Philippians 3:20-4:1)

- A. Believers are citizens of Heaven – 3:20
- B. Believers are subject to the _____ of Christ – 3:20
- C. Believers await the fulfillment of the glorious promises of our Lord – 3:20, 21
- D. Believers are called to _____ in the faith – 4:1

II. Christians' Relationship to Government (Romans 13:1-7)

- A. Believers are commanded to _____ governing authorities – vs. 1
 - i. Government's authority is derived from God – vs. 1
 - ii. Obedience to governmental authority is a form of obedience to God – vs. 2
- B. God ordains government to keep order, promote what is good, and punish wrongdoing – vs. 3-5
 - i. When the government creates laws and orders they carry the _____ of God – vs. 3, 4a
 - ii. When government punishes or issues judgement against wrongdoing the judgement is derived from God's authority – vs. 4b
 - iii. Obeying governmental authorities is just the right thing to do – vs. 5
- C. Christians should demonstrate _____, obedience, and _____ ethics in our relationship with the government. – vs. 6, 7

III. Christians' Responsibility to _____ Their Testimonies (1 Peter 2:13-17)

- A. A command to obey government authorities – vs. 13, 14
- B. A Christian's obedience to governmental authorities serves as a _____ to the truthfulness and integrity of Jesus Christ, His Church, and one's own faith – vs. 15, 16

Concluding Thoughts

1. Are there exceptions?

- There are a couple of exceptions to this rule: (1) The government has no right to order me to disobey the Lord; and (2) Government cannot regulate how I am to worship God.

2. The potential benefits to our current situation:

1) Christians will have a better understanding of “church.”

2) Christians will have a greater appreciation for gathering together in _____.

3) Christians will grow in their _____ of the Scriptures and in their relationship with Christ (2 Peter 3:18).