

Sermon Outline

Romans Series: A Christian's Relationship to Civil Authorities (13:1-7)

Mark Mitchell

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Main Idea: Though we are citizens of an eternal kingdom, how should Christians think about and live under earthly government and the civil authorities that make it up? Romans chapter 13 gives us great insight into that question.

Sermon Outline:

1. Civil Authorities are Appointed by God (v1-2)
2. Civil Authorities are Servants of God (v3-6)
3. Application
 - I. Pay Taxes/Revenue
 - II. Pay Respect (Reverence)
 - III. Pay Honor (Value/Status)

Key Text/Quotes:

"But if you look upon him as an unconverted person, in a state of enmity against God and his grace (a supposition which, without good evidence, you should be very unwilling to admit), he is a more proper object of your compassion than of your anger. Alas! "He knows not what he does." But you know who has made you to differ. If God, in his sovereign pleasure, had so appointed, you might have been as he is now; and he, instead of you, might have been set for the defense of the gospel. You were both equally blind by nature. If you attend to this, you will not reproach or hate him, because the Lord has been pleased to open your eyes, and not his." John Newton on dealing with opponents in controversy

Fellowship Starters:

1. Read Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17 and open in prayer.
2. In light of the Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2 passages, evaluate and discuss how the church is to respond to elections and civil authorities in general.
3. Evaluate how you actually responded over this past election cycle? Where are you aware of God's grace in your attitude and actions? Where are you aware that you might need to grow and change the way you think and act, including even repenting of wrong attitudes and actions?
4. How does John Newton's attitude land on you? Discuss how helpful this quote and attitude is on they way we should think of all who are not in Christ, not just our opponents.
5. Close in prayer, thanking God for His Sovereign rule over our lives in Christ Jesus.

