

**When politics
drives you**

crabby

Remember that civil servants are God's servants too.

Six truths about government to remember

ITS EXISTENCE: Every government is established by God.

ITS PURPOSE: Every government works for the good of God's kingdom, knowingly or unknowingly.

ITS TOOLS: The state wields the sword to accomplish its purposes.

ITS METHOD OF RULING: The state uses rewards and punishments to move people to obedience.

ITS SOURCE OF TRUTH: The state governs by natural reason, which is affected by sin.

ITS SURVIVAL: The state rises and falls. The church remains forever.

Discuss: Why is it helpful to understand the subject of civil government in the context of the Fourth Commandment?

When politics drives you *crazy*

Lesson 3

Romans 13:6-7 — This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Discuss:

- Authorities are God's servants. How does that change the way we look at those who are in positions of authority?
- Make a list of the people we can think of as civil servants / authorities.
- Why is it reasonable to pay taxes to support our government?
- How do we give respect and honor to those who rule over us?

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Lesson 3

1 Peter 2:13-15—Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

Discuss:

- According to Peter, how do civil authorities enforce the laws of the land?
- Why is it unusual for Peter to mention the emperor at this time in the history of the church?

Nehemiah—servant leadership as a public servant

- Nehemiah 1: 4ff: When he heard about the trouble in Jerusalem, he prayed.
- Nehemiah 2:1-8: Notice the respect that he showed for his king. It is obvious that Artaxerxes trusted him because of his faithful service.
- Nehemiah 3: Nehemiah had family groups take responsibility for sections of the wall. Despite opposition from the people of the land, they finished the wall in fifty-two days (Nehemiah 6:15).
- Nehemiah 5:14ff: He was generous in supporting the work. Civil servants should be **SERVANTS** and not **SELF-SERVING**.



Discussion

Do you have a story of a faithful civil servant who helped you or your community in some special way?

What are practical ways we can fulfill our duty to those whom God has appointed to serve us?

Questions?

Submit follow-up questions at <http://forwardinchrist.net/submit>