

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

TABLE OF DUTIES (PART 2)

DEVOTION

OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT AND OF CITIZENS

Certain passages of Scripture, for various holy orders and positions, admonish them about their duties and responsibilities.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. (Romans 13:1–2)

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. (1 Peter 2:13–14)

FOR SHARING

1. What is the general attitude toward government today? How, on the whole, do people view citizenship?
2. Do most people view authority as mandated from above or supported from below? Explain.
3. Summarize Paul's and Peter's words on government and citizenship.
4. Jesus suffered punishment and death for our disobedience to God's Word and ways. What does Jesus' substitutionary work on your behalf mean to you?
5. God is a God of order and peace (1 Corinthians 14:33). How can we, as His redeemed people in Christ, contribute to order and peace in our congregations? our communities?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the blessings of government and citizenship in my life. In Christ, You have forgiven my failures to respect and honor Your authorities in the world. Help me to live as Your child and to accept the authorities You have placed in my life. By the power of Your Spirit enable me to be Your instrument of order and peace in the world around me. In Jesus' name. Amen.