

Practical Christian Living

Romans 13: 1-7

November 8, 2020

I. God Is a God of Order and Authority

- A. God has established authority “there is no (true) authority except from God”
- B. God even recognizes satan’s rightful authority (2 Corinthians 4: 4)
 - 1. Adam & Eve were given authority to rule this creation (Genesis 1: 28-29)
 - 2. Satan gained this right by trickery – but God still honor the authority
 - 3. Satan’s offer to Jesus in the temptations was legitimate (Matthew 4: 8-10)
 - 4. Jesus regained what was lost through the cross (Colossians 1: 19-20; 2: 9-15)
- C. We are in the world, but not of it
 - 1. We are more than conquerors through Jesus (Romans 8: 37)
 - 2. We are to recognize that authority to rule comes from God in order to preserve tranquility and allow for the spread of the Gospel (1Timothy 2: 1-4)
 - a. The rule of government is negative – that is, to place the fear of punishment in law breakers
 - b. It is to avoid anarchy for the prosperity of the people
 - 3. Rulers are to be a cause of fear for evil behavior, not for good behavior

II. The Ministers of God

- A. Living without fear (vs 3) we do not need to fear the authorities if we obey the law
- B. Those who carry out the law and execute its purposes are the ministers of God in the world
- C. However, while our motivation is to respect and obey the rulers, we are to do so not out of fear but in recognition of the God ordained authority of the executives

III. The Motivation of Obedience for Conscience’ Sake

- A. We are called to live by a Higher Authority
 - We are citizens first of a heavenly Kingdom not of this world (Hebrews 11: 13-16)
- B. When the State goes against God, we must obey the Higher Authority from Whom all authority derives
- C. We must obey God rather than men (Acts 4: 17-21 and Acts 5: 29)

IV. The Authority of Capital Punishment and Lethal Force

- A. A change in the *kosmos* (Genesis 9: 1-5)
- B. Capital crimes require the death penalty (Genesis 9: 6-7)
- C. Lethal force (Exodus 21: 1-23; 33)
If a man breaks into your home in the night you are justified; if he is caught as a common thief in the daytime you must respect his life
 - 1. Ability, opportunity, jeopardy
 - 2. Innocence, reasonableness, avoidance, imminence, proportionality
- D. The State (police) have the authority to pursue; the non-commissioned has only the authority to defend