**The Christian and The Government Rom 13:1-7**

**I. Introduction Rom 13:1-7**

1. **As Christians, What is our responsibility towards the Governing Authorities?**
2. **God Governs all relationships and therefore governs the relationship between Christians and Governments through The Word of God.**
3. **All Governments are appointed and established by God! Rom 13:1, Prov 8:15-16, Dan 2:21, Dan 4:17**

**II. What Is The Government’s Relationship With God? ….The Government is God’s Minister or Servant! Rom 13:4 Although we may not think of the government this way, the primary function/purpose of the government is to serve as God’s Ministers on Earth!**

 **\*How do Governments Serve God?**

1. **Governments Are God’s Servants To Render Justice and Righteousness! Rom 13:2-4, I Pet 2:13-14-To praise those who do well and to render wrath to those who disobey!**

**A. Does This Include CAPITAL PUNISHMENT? Yes! Rom 13:4- “If you do evil be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain, for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”**

**B. In Rom 12:19 God tells us not to avenge ourselves, He says “vengeance is mine saith The Lord” therefore God works through His Minister (The Govt) an avenger to execute wrath on those who disobey which includes Capital Punishment!**

**C. The Expression “Bearing The Sword” which the Government exercises refers to death! Notice the following examples…**

* **In Gen 34:25 Simeom and Levi Killed all the males of the Hivites with the sword!**
* **Ex 17:13 states that Joshua defeated Amelek with the edge of the sword!**
* **Josh 8:24 states that Joshua defeated Ai by the edge of the Sword!**
* **In Joshua 13:22 Israel killed the prophet Balaam by the edge of the sword!**

**In I Sam 17:51 David killed Goliath with the edge of a Sword!**

**D. As The Sword is a weapon of Death, The Sword Became a Symbol of Judgment and Death in The OT-Ezek 11:10, Ezek 21:11, Ezek 26:11, Ezek 35:8**

**E. In The OT, Capital Punishment or “The Sword” was given to the Government or Nation as well-Lev 24:16**

**G. Why does God Command Capital Punishment?..Due to the great value of each soul made in the image of God!-Gen 9:5-6**

1. **Governments Are God’s Servants To Provide Order and Peace in Society!**

**Just as God is a God of Order and Peace-I Cor 14:33, so His Creation/Minister the Government has been given to provide Order and Peace in Society-I Tim 2:1-4**

1. **Governments Are God’s Servants To Provide For The Needs of The People!**

**\*Gen 41:53-56-When there was a famine in Egypt, The Egyptian Government helped to meet the needs of the people! We saw the same with The Great Depression in the US**

1. **As Ministers of God, All Governments Are Held Accountable By God! Those who do not rule with Justice and Righteousness will not stand! Jer 18:7-10**

**III. A Christian’s Responsibility To The Government**

1. **To Obey The Government. Rom 13:1-2, Rom 13:5, I Pet 2:13-16, Titus 3:1-2**

**Christians should obey all of the laws of the land.**

1. **To Pay Taxes and Customs To Support The Government. Rom 13:7, Matt 22:21**

**We must “Render to Caesar what is Caesar’s”**

1. **To Give Honor and Respect To Those In Leadership. Rom 13:7, I Pet 2:17**

**We must honor them as they are God’s ministers and are appointed by God.**

1. **To Pray For Our Leaders. I Tim 2:1-4**

**Instead of being hypercritical of leaders we should pray for them!**

1. **To Obey God Rather Than The Government when Government Decrees are Contrary to The Word of God. Acts 5:28-29**

**\*The Jewish Midwives feared/obeyed God over The Egyptian King who decreed that all male babies be executed-Ex 1**

**\*Daniel feared/obeyed God over The Decree of King Darius who wrote that no one was to pray to another God yet Daniel prayed to God 3 times/day as was his habit- Dan 6**

**\*The 3 Hebrew men feared/obey God over The Decree of the King to bow down before the Image of the false God-Dan 3**

1. **Christians Should Not Actively or Physically Resist Evil Governments. Rome was one of the most vicious, idolatrous, and evil Governments that has existed on the face of the Earth yet Jesus, His disciples and the first century saints did not resist The Government-I Pet 2 :18-23. We must instead TRUST GOD LIKE JESUS!**

**\*We Should Follow The Example of Jesus and Focus on The Gospel! John 4:34**

**…Let The Government Focus on Its Service to God, While we Focus on The Gospel!**