

## ROMANS 13:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

## ROMANS 13:1-7

<sup>4</sup> For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

## ROMANS 13:1-7

<sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.



To Obey or Not to Obey – That is the Question!

## ON CIVIL GOVERNMENT

International Baptist Church Eindhoven  
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## 30 YEARS AGO !

### Administration of Criminal Justice

- History
- Criminal Law
- Sociology
- Political Science
  - Bureaucracy
  - Political Theory



#### 5 main divisions

- Autocracy* – rule of one
- Anarchy* – absence of rule
- Socialism* – co-operative self rule
- Democracy* – rule by populace
- Republic* – rule by law

## TYPES OF GOVERNMENTS

### × 67 sub-divisions- Such as..

- + *Dictatorship* – malevolent ruler - North Korea
- + *Monarchy* – King/Queen – Saudi Arabia, Babylon (time of Daniel)
- + *Plutocracy* – Rule of the wealthy, Medieval Venice, Florence etc.
- + *Theocracy* – Rule of state Church – Vatican City, Iran
- + *Presidential Republic* – Rule of Populace – United States of America
- + *Constitutional Monarchy* – Regal and parliament – Netherlands

## I WAS A DREAMER BACK THEN

- × 1984 graduate from college
- × 1990 Run for Illinois House – Win
- × 1996 Run for Illinois Senate – Win
- × 2002 Run for Illinois Governor – Win
- × 2008 Run for US Senator – Win
- ...
- × 2012 Run for US President

*Obama for President*

*2012*

*A big man for a big job!*

## WHY ARE THERE GOVERNMENTS?

Is it because man is fallen and sinful?

No - **God is a god of order** - Consider Creation

### **Proverbs 30:24–28**

<sup>24</sup> “Four things on earth are small,  
yet they are extremely wise:

<sup>25</sup> Ants are creatures of little strength,  
yet they store up their food in the summer;

<sup>26</sup> coney are creatures of little power,  
yet they make their home in the crags;

<sup>27</sup> locusts have no king,  
yet they advance together in ranks;

<sup>28</sup> a lizard can be caught with the hand,  
yet it is found in kings’ palaces.

### **1 Corinthians 14:33a**

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace ...

## WHAT DOES IBC ENTHOSEN BELIEVE

### 6.11 On Civil Government

We believe that civil government is ordained by God in the interests of law and order within society, and that we should therefore pray for the governing authorities. We also believe we must honor and obey them in everything that is not contrary to the teachings of the Bible.

*Romans 13:1-7, Acts 5:17-32*

## LET'S BREAK THAT DOWN...

### × We believe:

- + that civil government is ordained by God
- + in the interests of law and order within society,
- + that we should therefore pray for the governing authorities.
- + we must honor and obey them in everything ...

## THAT CIVIL GOVERNMENT IS OBTAINED BY GOD

- God is all powerful
- God is all knowing
- God is in control of all

### **Romans 13:1**

<sup>1</sup> Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

### **Proverbs 21:1**

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

## THAT CIVIL GOVERNMENT IS OBTAINED BY GOD

Remember this...

### **67 Government types - Such as..**

- + *Dictatorship* – malevolent ruler - North Korea
- + *Monarchy* – King/Queen – Saudi Arabia, Babylon (time of Daniel)
- + *Plutocracy* – Rule of the wealthy, Medieval Venice, Florence etc.
- + *Theocracy* – Rule of state Church – Vatican City, Iran
- + *Constitutional Monarchy* – Regal and parliament – Netherlands

### **Daniel 2:20b – 21, 37**

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;  
wisdom and power are his.

<sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons;  
he sets up kings and deposes them.

<sup>37</sup> You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion  
and power and might and glory;

God is GOD of all of them !

## BUT WHAT ABOUT THE “REALY BAD” ONES?

- × Was God in control when:
  - + the **Egyptians** enslaved the descendants of Abraham?
  - + the **Assyrians** exiled the Israelites?
  - + the **Babylonians** took Daniel away?
  - + the **Romans** hung Jesus on a cross?
  - + the **Romans** destroyed the Temple?
  - + **Hitler, Stalin** and **Pol Pot** came into power?
  - + **Amin, Hussein, Gadaffi** came into power?
- × Will God be in control when the next bad leader comes into power?

*Yes, God is in control – all the time – everywhere!*

## INTERESTS OF LAW AND ORDER WITHIN SOCIETY

### **1 Peter 2:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. <sup>16</sup> Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.

## PRAY FOR THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

### 1 Timothy 2:1-2

<sup>1</sup> I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

## WE MUST HONOR AND OBEY THEM ...

### Romans 13:1 – 3

<sup>1</sup> Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

## HOW TO HONOR AND OBEY THE GOVERNMENT

### Romans 13:5 – 7

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to **submit** to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. <sup>6</sup> This is also why you **pay taxes**, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, **pay taxes**; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then **respect**; if honor, then **honor**.

#### **We are to:**

- Submit to the government
- Pay taxes to the government
- Respect the government
- Honor the government

## IS THAT IT THEN?

### × We believe:

- + that civil government is ordained by God
- + in the interests of law and order within society,
- + that we should therefore pray for the governing authorities.
- + we must honor and obey them in everything ...

NO – there is more there...

## WHAT DOES IBC ENROLLEES BELIEVE

### 6.11 On Civil Government

We believe that civil government is ordained by God in the interests of law and order within society, and that we should therefore pray for the governing authorities. We also believe we must honor and obey them in everything **that is not contrary to the teachings of the Bible.**

*Romans 13:1-7, Acts 5:17-32*

## THERE TO DO US GOOD

### Romans 13:4

<sup>4</sup> For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

*So what happens when the  
authorities and government  
do no good  
and punish the wrong people?*

## THIS IS THE CHALLENGE TO YOU AND ME

### What do we do?



We must honor and obey the leaders in everything.

But what are we to do when the government wants us to do something that we perceive as against God or when evil is in power?

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- × When you government makes a law that allows unborn babies to be killed?
- × When you are told you can't wear a cross?
- × When you are forbidden to carry a Bible?
- × When you are told you can't meet with other Christians?
- × When the government tells you to take down the cross on your church and replace it with a swastika?
- × When it is illegal to be a Christian?
- × When you are told to persecute others?
- × When the government is persecuting your brothers and sisters in Christ?
- × When you are told to deny Christ as Lord?

## WHAT DO WE DO ?

- ✘ We look to God's Word for direction.

### **Psalm 119:9 – 11**

<sup>9</sup> How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By living according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart;  
do not let me stray from your commands.

<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.

## WHAT DO WE DO ?

- ✘ We pray to God asking for direction.

### **Philippians 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## WHAT DO WE DO ?

× We fight a spiritual battle.

**+ Ephesians 6:10 – 18**

- × Be strong in the Lord
- × Put on full armor of God
- × Our struggle is not against flesh and blood
- × Put on the belt of Truth, breastplate of righteousness
- × Your feet ready
- × With your shield of Faith and helmet of salvation
- × And the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God
- × Pray during all occasions
- × Be alert

## WHAT DO WE DO ?

× We remember that we are citizens of heaven.

**Philippians 3:20**

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

## WHAT DO WE DO ?

- ✘ We remember that the Lord is the refuge of the oppressed.

### **Psalm 10:12 - 18**

<sup>12</sup> Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God.

Do not forget the helpless.

<sup>13</sup> Why does the wicked man revile God?

Why does he say to himself,

“He won’t call me to account”?

<sup>14</sup> But you, O God, do see trouble and grief;

you consider it to take it in hand.

The victim commits himself to you;

you are the helper of the fatherless.

## WHAT DO WE DO ?

- ✘ We remember that the Lord is the refuge of the oppressed.

### **Psalm 10:12 -18**

<sup>15</sup> Break the arm of the wicked and evil man;

call him to account for his wickedness

that would not be found out.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD is King for ever and ever;

the nations will perish from his land.

<sup>17</sup> You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted;

you encourage them, and you listen to their cry,

<sup>18</sup> defending the fatherless and the oppressed,

in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.

## WHAT DO WE DO ?

- ✘ We remember that God is still in control.

### **Daniel 2:20b – 21, 37**

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;  
wisdom and power are his.

<sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons;  
he sets up kings and deposes them.

<sup>37</sup> You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven  
has given you dominion and power and might and glory;

## WHAT DO WE DO ?

- ✘ We look to God’s Word for direction.
- ✘ We pray to God asking for direction.
- ✘ We remember that we are fighting a spiritual battle.
- ✘ We remember that we are citizens of heaven.
- ✘ We remember that the Lord is the refuge of the oppressed.
- ✘ We remember that the Lord is still in control.

## TIME FOR A PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- ✘ Abortion is legal in the Netherlands!
- ✘ Over 1,000,000 unborn babies have been killed legally in the last 30 years. 30,000 + a year!
- ✘ All life is precious to God.
- ✘ A petition has been organized asking the government to change the law. Please sign it.
- ✘ Cry for Life - <http://www.schreeuwomleven.nl/>

## HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO YOUR GOVERNMENT?

- ✘ Will you honor, obey and respect it?
- ✘ Will you pay your taxes?
- ✘ Will you pray for your government and its leaders?
- ✘ Will you recognize when the government is not aligned with the teachings of God?
- ✘ What will you do?
- ✘ Lastly, will you trust that God is in control?