

XVI. Concerning Civil Government

- ▣ *We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.*

Our civil government & the Scriptures

- ▣ Scriptures teach us to honor whatever system of government that is over the people unless that government is to the detriment of the Word of God and the cause of Christ. Today, we live in a country that secures our social and religious liberties. However, this is a relatively new thought considering the former governments of humanity. Thus, this article of faith draws pointedly the line between righteous conformity and righteous rebellion. On this, we may observe:
 1. Romans 13:1-8: Paul expresses that the government is designed to protect those who do "good." He instructs the Romans to pay taxes and their debt. On this, Scripture is clear that taxes and debt are owed if the government has initiated it or if you have incurred the debt:
 - a. Matt 17:24-27
 - b. Luke 20:22-25
 2. Ex 18:21-23: Israeli Government instituted.
- ▣ It is evident through reading of Scripture and the testimony of history that Christians are to be a peaceful people subjecting themselves to the laws of the land. But what if that system is flawed? Remember, Paul wrote in Romans 13 to people in ROME, commonly known for a corrupt government. Christians are to live peaceably until the

government goes BLANT A LY AND DIRE CT LY against the Word of God, hindering the Gospel message:

1. Acts 5:27-29
2. Dan 3:15-18
3. Acts 4:18-19

a. Notice in A LL these cases how protest was made: NE VE R with willful violence, but rather standing instead of bowing, preaching instead of hiding, praying instead of keeping silent. How should a Christian oppose a corrupt government? By keeping the word as we have received it: Dan 6:13

Duel Citizenship

- ▣ We should understand that we are not only citizens of a particular country, state, or province. But we are also a citizen of Zion, the Kingdom of God, whose power far supersedes any authority, power, or law here on earth:

1. Ps 72:11
2. Matt 23:10
3. Rev 19:16

Our Christian Obligations to Our Country

- ▣ T he Word tells us that we have obligations that must be met for the land in which we live:

1. I T im 2:1-3
2. T itus 3:1
3. I Pet 2:13-16