

1 July 2012 - Preached by Elder John Leong

Message Topic: **Responsibilities to the Government**

Scripture Text: Romans 13:1-7

1. The Bible teaching encompasses all aspects of our relationship whether in the church or at home or at work/school. In Romans 13:1-7, it teaches us how to relate to the government. Hence our christian living is not divisible and we cannot just be a Sunday christian. We must be a good testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ 24/7 everywhere and in every relationship.

2. The Bible is very clear to command us to submit to civil authority and to obey the laws of the land (Rom 13:1a). There are only 2 exceptions:

a) Government commands us to do what God forbids - then we must obey God rather than man

b) We cannot do what the government forbids if God commands it

3. The Bible gives us 5 reasons why we should submit and obey the government:

a) Rom 13:1b - Government is ordained by God. God in His wisdom knows this is the way a country can have order, peace and life is protected.

b) Rom 13: 2a - Resistance to government is rebellion against God. We must follow the rule of the laws even when we desire a change.

c) Rom 13: 2b,4b - Those who oppose the government will receive punishment. Government is given the authority to execute punishment for those who break the law.

d) Rom 13: 3: Government serves to restrain evil.

e) Rom 13:4a - Government serves to promote good and protect those who do right. Christians must be good citizen.

4. In Romans 13:5, we will have a good conscience when we obey the government and pray for those in authority. We can live a peaceful life and the Gospel can be preached.

5. In Rom 13:6-7, one important way to show our obedience to the government is to pay our taxes. We have to be honest in declaring our income tax. Jesus has set the example to pay tax.

6. The Bible teaching on submission to authority is really to teach us that we must first learn to submit to God. We must follow the way of God rather than our own ways.