

13. How can we *be devoted to prayer* on one another's behalf this week?

Quotes to Ponder

The primary responsibility of any civil government ... is to protect, defend, and maintain human life. When any government turns its back on that primary responsibility, it is acting in utter defiance of the law of God and is exposing itself and the nation it governs to the judgment of God.

When God gives the power of the sword, He does not give it merely to see it rattled. The power of the sword is given to be used to enforce law and justice.

R.C. Sproul

Christians are not to undermine or show disrespect for the authority even of government that is foolish and that supports behavior disobedient to God.

Paul's radical principle is: We obey our government out of our Christian conscience, out of our obedience to God alone.

Timothy Keller

Conscience is a powerful reinforcement of the outward directions to submit to the state. But once conscience is brought in, there is a limit: What is against conscience cannot be done ... Conscience at one and the same time obliges us to be obedient and sets a limit to that obedience.

Leon Morris

Paul ... wants us to know that the danger to our soul from unjust governments is nowhere near as great as the danger to our soul from the pride that kicks against submission. No mistreatment or unjust law has ever sent anyone to hell. But pride and rebellion is what sends everyone to hell who doesn't have a Savior

John Piper

*Because he represents the God-ordained institution of civil government, a civil official is actually **a minister of God**, regardless of his personal beliefs about or relation to God. He is doing the Lord's work whether he realizes it or not, by promoting peace and safety among men.*

John MacArthur

Religious people are ... the best asset a country can have and the only thing that will advance it in the direction of justice and true righteousness.

James Montgomery Boice



Message #102: Government's Ministry

February 12, 2017

Sermon
Notes

Ashland Bible Church
www.ashlandbiblechurch.com
541-482-8644

1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. What does Paul teach about rulers in *Romans 13:3-4*?

3. *Romans 13:3* tells us if we do what is right we will be praised by our rulers. What does this mean? How does it look?

4. What does Paul mean when he calls rulers *ministers of God* (*Romans 13:4*)?

5. What conclusion does Paul arrive at in *Romans 13:5*?

6. What is a better motive for doing right than fear of punishment?

7. Whereas not all sins are crimes, all crimes are sins. Are there any exceptions to this? Explain.

8. What is the Christian to do when the state begins to promote the very thing which God has ordained it to restrain?

9. Is capital punishment biblical? Should it be used by governments today? Explain your answer and support it with Scripture.

What does *Genesis 9:6* teach about capital punishment?

What is the reason given why those who take a human life should have their life taken?

How do you respond when someone tells you that capital punishment ...can't be harmonized with the love of God?

...is the exact opposite of the gospel of Jesus which seeks redemption of and offers forgiveness to evil-doers?

...was rejected by Jesus in *John 8:1-11*?

...contradicts the sixth commandment (*Exodus 20:13*)?

10. How does submitting to authorities relate to *Romans 12:1-2*?

11. How does the realization that governments are tools used by God in His master plan change the way you view our governments of today?

12. **Reflection Questions:** Do I fear authority? Why? How am I giving the authorities over me my calm respect and submission? Do I treat authority figures as *ministers of God*? Do I obey out of fear or *for conscience sake*?